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Batter Mid-Swing at Rocky Mtn. Champs, Left, and Outfielder Mid-Throw and Runner Sprinting Home at Northern, Center and Right.

Reception/Registration at 2023 World Championships

Softball News Report

Senior softball players and managers will have a world of opportunities for fun even before taking the field at the upcoming Senior Softball World Championships in Las Vegas.

For openers, there are a number of Registration/Receptions and information meetings where managers and players can find all the softball vendors in one spot. In addition, managers can check in, check their rosters, receive important information and meet other managers and players across the country.

Teams that won the Eastern or Western Nationals will be able to pick-up their polo shirts at the Registration/Receptions.

Registration receptions will be held the night before each session starts.

Each Reception/Registration will be at Boulder Station Hotel & Casino from 7pm to 9pm in the Railhead Room on the following dates:

Teams from Alaska to Florida Join the Rocky Mountain Champs in Colorado



SSUSA Umpires at 2023 Rocky Mountain Championships, left to right: Reggie Weathersby (TX), Marcus Bodie (TN), and Greg Jones (TX).

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

A record 87 teams from 17 states converged on Aurora, Colo., in mid-August to compete in the Rocky Mountain Championships.

Eighteen of them emerged from the Aug. 17-20 event with berths to the 2024 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida.

Though lightning and rain interrupted play on two of the tournament's four days at the Aurora Sports Park, teams enjoyed mostly sunny weather with temperatures peaking in the low 90s daily.

Spirited competition abounded, including one 82-run game. Alliance/Scrap Iron defeated Texas Rush 44-38 in that 50+ AAA pool game, which had been shortened to five innings following a long Friday evening lightning delay.

Another Friday highlight involved the induction of Penne (Penelope) Adams into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame, a joint hall that represents all national senior slow-pitch softball organizations. Senior Softball USA is the largest of those groups.

- Wednesday, Sept. 13.
- Sunday, Sept. 17.
- Thursday, Sept. 21.
- Wednesday, Sept. 27.

Vendors will be selling and showcasing their newest gear and items for the 2024 softball season! Don't miss this opportunity, as vendors will only be at certain parks during the session.

Women's 50-55+ teams and Co-Ed teams will have separate events a day before their start date.

Join us and the rest of the tournament staff to check-in, gather materials, ask questions, and visit our sponsor vendors!



September 2023 Obituaries

Tommy D. French



Tommy French, 80, of Woodland, Calif., died on Aug. 13.

Tommy, a lifelong resident of Woodland, joined Senior Softball USA in the 1990s and played until 2021.

"Tom had a passion for softball and played for 60 years," according to his online obituary written by his wife of 57 years, Betty. He "also umpired Woodland softball games [and] played on several senior softball teams with talented teammates winning championships in several states."

He was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2002



Left to Right: Pene's Daughter, Beck Adams, Pene Adams and Pene's Husband, Dave Adams.

Adams began playing senior softball in 2004, the year her team Colorado Hot Flashes finished second in the National Senior Games. She also has played on teams that won national championships, world championships, and Huntman Senior Game gold medals. She entered the Hall of Fame in the pioneer player category.

The Rocky Mountain Championships also included a Friday skills competition organized by the Scrap Iron organization.

Teams from as far as Alaska, Minnesota, Texas and Florida competed in the tournament, which has become one of SSUSA's premier TOC qualifiers.

Results:

Men's 50+ Platinum: Top-seeded Texas Steel/California Bats, a 50+ Major team, defeated fifth-seeded Scrap Iron Havoc 22-17 for the title of the five-team bracket. Rock N Legends of Texas finished third.

Men's 50+ AAA: In a thrilling finish, top-seeded SSC/Persuaders of Kansas double dipped seventh-seeded Band of Brothers of Utah 18-17 and 10-9 for the crown. Texas Rush, which had been seeded 13th, finished third in the 14-team bracket, the tournament's largest.

Men's 50+ AA: Playing a best-of-three format, the Lobos of Texas rebounded from an opening 14-13 loss to double dip Team 307 of Wyoming 12-4 and 8-6.

Men's 55+ AAA: Top-seeded Alliance/Scrap Iron of Colorado capped a 6-0 tournament with a 15-9 title game victory over KC Stampede 55 of Missouri. ETX 55s of Texas finished third in the eight-team bracket.

Men's 55/60+ Platinum: Texas Crush Sixties (photo below) earned the 60+ Major Plus TOC berth by winning the six-team bracket undefeated. Runner-up Damage Nevada captured the 55+ Major TOC berth. Top-seeded Scrap Iron Thunder of Colorado finished third in the six-team bracket.

and into the Northern California Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2015.

“Tommy French was one of the kindest men I knew,” said Fran Dowell, executive director of Senior Softball USA. “I would look forward to seeing him at tournaments and the many times he and his dear wife Betty would come to the office to visit. He is going to be missed so much. Bless you Tommy... Thank you for being what is so great about our softball family.”

After attending Sacramento City College, he joined the Army National Guard and worked at UC Davis for 33 years.

Tommy will be remembered by playing with several California team, including Nor-Cal Bluejays 65s, Easton Pumps 50s, Grumpy Old Men 65s and 70s, Omen 70s and 75s, California Wrecking Crew 70s, and San Francisco Seals 75s and 80s.



Men's 60+ Major: After all five teams went 1-1 in pool play, third-seeded Peak Softball/Storage Time/Scrap Iron 60s of Colorado ([photo below](#)) emerged as champions by defeating top-seeded Arizona Old School 14-3 in the finale. Minnesota Premier finished third.



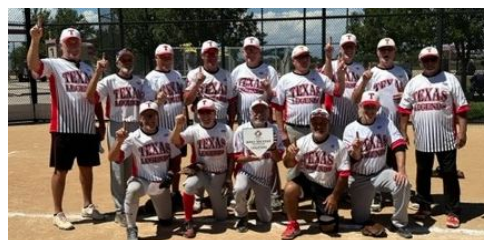
Men's 60+ AAA: Seventh-seeded Alliance/Scrap Iron defeated top-seeded Minnesota Thunder 15-5 to win the 10-team bracket. Fourth-seeded Arizona Blaze finished third.

Men's 60+ AA: Third-seeded Lobos of Texas lost the first title game 28-26 but won the second 21-18 to capture the five-team division. Second-seeded Club Tilt/Haus of Colorado finished second. Top-seeded OKC Angels of Oklahoma took third.

Men's 65+ Major: Top-seeded Scrap Iron High Octane ([photo below](#)) lost the first title game 15-4 but won the second 9-6 over the Minnesota Masters. Blue Speed AV of Missouri finished third in the three-team bracket.



Men's 65+ AAA: Third-seeded Texas Legends ([photo below](#)) lost the first title game 7-5 but triumphed 21-17 in the second to win the five-team division. Second-seeded Scrap Iron Heavy Metal of Colorado placed second, and fifth-seeded Scrap Iron Xpllosion took third.



Men's 65+ AA: Top-seeded Duke City Dynamite of New Mexico ([photo below](#)) lost the first title game but won the second over the second-seeded Electrifiers of Texas to win the six-team division. Scrap Iron 65 Rockies finished third.



Men's 70+ AAA: Sixth-seeded Scrap Iron 5280' double dipped the top-seeded Texas Rattlers 18-14 and 23-19 to win the six-team division. The second-seeded Midwest As of Missouri played five one-run games and finished third.

Men's 70+ AA: Top-seeded Not Dead Yet of Kansas (photo below) edged the Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado 16-15 in the championship game of the three-team division. R & D Leverage of Missouri finished third.



Men's 70/75+ Major: Top-seeded and unbeaten KC Kids 70s earned the 70+ Major TOC berth by winning the overall bracket with a 18-12 title game victory over the 75 Scrap Iron Diamonds, which won the 75+ Major TOC berth. The Tri-State Diamondbacks of New Mexico finished third in the three-team bracket.

Men's 75/80+ Gold: Top-seeded KC Kids 75s won the 75+ AAA TOC berth by double-dipping the Texas Raiders 20-13 and 18-10. The top-finishing 80s team, Scrap Iron 80s, finished third and snagged the 80+ Major TOC berth.

Pool Games Rained Out at Northern Championships



Batter Mid-Swing at the 2023 Northern Championships in Lansing, MI. Photo by Lansing Sports Commission.

**By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report**

Ten teams nabbed berths to the 2024 Tournament of Champions by winning their age group and division during Senior Softball USA's Northern Championships on Aug. 18-20 in Michigan.

The 36 entrants from five U.S. states and Canada played at Erickson Park in Lansing and Lake Alliance Softball Complex in Potterville.

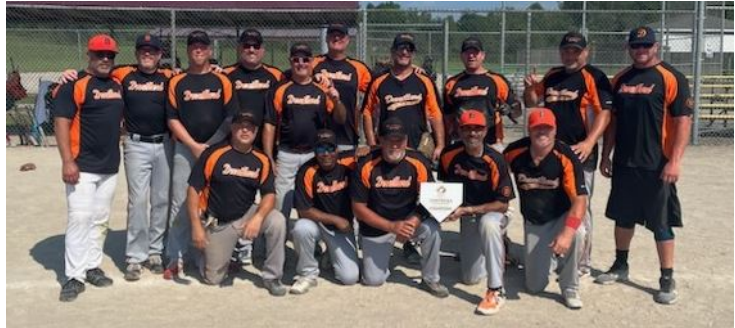
As has been common this year, Mother Nature dampened part of the three-day event.

"We got off to a rocky start with one round in and only two innings of the second before the rain came and we had to halt everything," said Tournament Director Mike Hula, who praised the grounds crews for getting fields playable about 90 minutes after the rain ended. That enabled some divisions to finish pool games before brackets were seeded. Other pool games got rained out.

"The rest of the weekend went fairly smooth, from the weather standpoint," Hula said.

Results:

Men's 50+ AAA: Top-seeded and unbeaten Drouillard of Ontario, Canada, ([photo below](#)) defeated Prov V/CSN Apparel of Michigan 7-5 for the championship of the nine-team division, the tournament's largest. Prov V won five consecutive elimination games to reach the championship. Area 51 of Michigan placed third.



Men's 50/55+ Major: Chi-Town Ballers of Illinois, a 50+ Major team, defeated Lansing Legends Softball Club 27-15 to claim the title. PluseChain.com & Feet Heat Customs of Ohio finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 50/55+ AA: The 55+ AA team Buddie's/Sampson's/Mid-Michigan Merchants defeated Wind City 50s of Illinois 24-20 for the title of the three-team division. Midwest Eclipse 55 of Illinois took third.

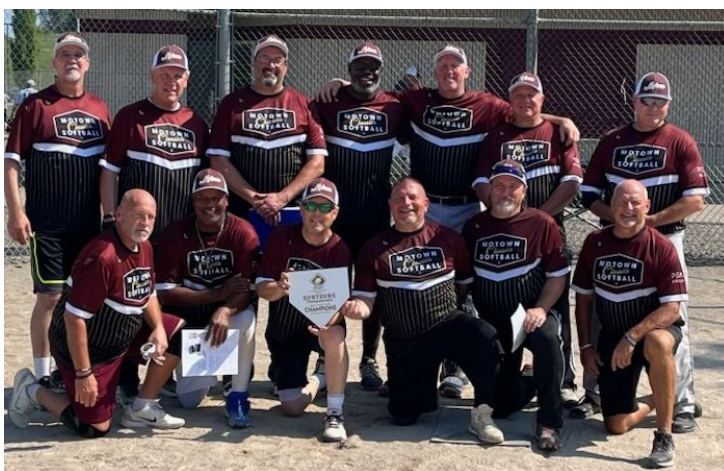
Men's 55/60+ Gold: Top-seeded MPH Logistics/Larry's Tire/Wolfpack of Michigan ([photo below](#)) capped a 5-0 tournament with a 25-17 title game victory over third-seeded Mo Town Classics/P.E.A. Group of Michigan. MPH earned the 60+ Major TOC berth while Mo Town nabbed the 55+ AAA berth. The Gray Ghost of Illinois finished third in the five-team bracket.



Men's 60+ Silver: The AAA team Avalanche of Ohio ([photo below](#)) won six elimination games in a row, including 14-11 and 19-4 championship game victories over top-seeded BJM Bomb Squad 60s of Indiana. Buckeye Classics of Ohio finished third in the six-team bracket.



Men's 65+ Major: Ohio Elite/Schones/Safe Step Tub defeated the Motown Stars of Michigan (photo below) 21-2 for the title. Bricks of Michigan finished third in the three-team bracket.



Men's 65+ AAA: In a best-of-three format, MP Components/Bomb Squad of Michigan (photo below) defeated BJM Bomb Squad of Illinois 16-13 and 23-8.



Men's 65/70+ AA: Doc Martens/Ropes Courses of Michigan (photo below) earned the 70+ AA TOC berth and overall bracket title by defeating Shannon Fence/CPOA of Ohio 10-6 for the championship. Shannon Fence earned the 65+ AA TOC berth. Region 65s of Indiana finished third in the four-team bracket.



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