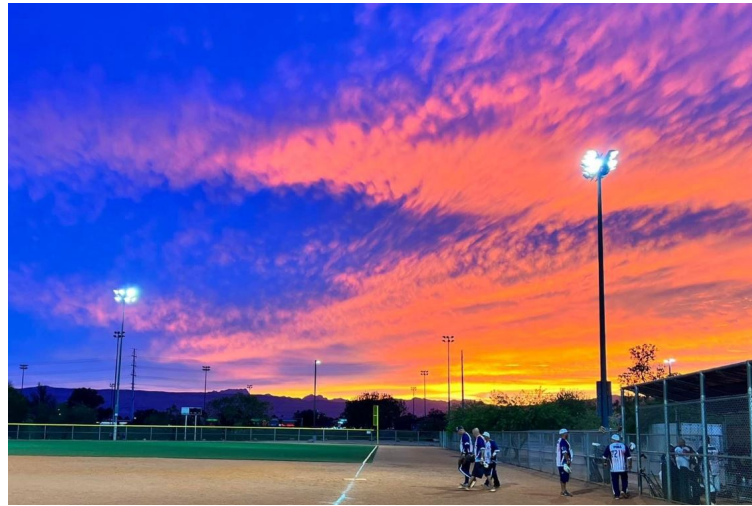


Sept. 29, 2023 - In This Issue:

Come From Behind Victories Decide Winners at Session 3 of Worlds

Hall of Fame: 3 Players, A Manager, and A Lifetime Achievement Recipient Inducted



Sunset at Big League Dreams in Las Vegas, Session 3 of the 2023 World Championships.

Hall of Fame: 3 Players, A Manager, and A Lifetime Achievement Recipient Inducted

Softball News Report

Three players, a manager and a special lifetime achievement recipient for Senior Softball USA were inducted into the Hall of Fame during Opening Ceremonies for the Second Session of the World Championships in Las Vegas.



They include:

Carl Gustafson, Lifetime Achievement

Come From Behind Victories Decide Winners at Session 3 of Worlds

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

Teams that battled during the 40+ Masters session at the 2023 SSUSA World Championships found unbeaten runs through pool and bracket play hard to achieve.

Only two of the 127 entrants succeeded during the Sept. 23-24-25 session played at parks in and near Las Vegas.



Photos by Clover Schultz.

Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks (AZ), 40+ Major at 2023 Worlds.

Legends Sports of Nevada triumphed in two one-run Sunday games during men's 40+ Major bracket play en route to an 8-0 tournament and World Championship.



Gustafson (photo above) is only the second person to be inducted for Lifetime Achievements.

He is known as an exceptional player who hit booming home runs, managed a number of SoCal teams to national titles and was instrumental in building Senior Softball throughout the area with the most players in the United States: Southern California.

Joe Cors, Pioneer Player category



Cors (photo above) had one of the more meteoric rises in our sport, going from playing league ball to AA to Major-Plus in a two-year span. He helped the Omen 70's and 75 Major Plus teams become recognized as one of the best teams in the nation and now plays for an 80's division Major Plus team that is also highly rated nationally - The San Francisco Seals.

Vince Melograno, Pioneer Player



Melograno (photo above) began his 15-year career playing senior softball in Cleveland in 2002. He played with some of the top teams in the East, including Joseph Chevrolet 60+ Major and Venom. Melograno

Gigantes O.C. of Maryland scored six times in the bottom of the open inning in the men's 40+ AAA title game to run its record to 7-0 and also earn a World Championship.

In all, six division champions emerged during a 40s session highlighted by the speed, power and enthusiasm that SSUSA's youngest players possess. Some teams proved to be scoring machines while others showed a knack for never giving up despite the score. Seventh-inning rallies abounded.

World Champions received a trophy and free Jostens rings for all participating players.



Players from Get Nutz (HI - Left) and Redz/California Bat Company (NC - Right), Session 3 of 2023 Worlds.

Results:

Women's 40+ Major: Second-seeded Redz/California Bat Company scored twice in the bottom of the seventh to win the title 14-13 over the sixth-seeded St. Louis Storm of Missouri. Redz, which lost the USA National Championship game 14-12 to TABU of California, finished 6-1 overall. Vintage of New Jersey nabbed third place in the 15-team bracket. HTS-Here To Smash of California took fourth.

Women's 40+ AAA: Third-seeded Pro Moves 40 of California (photo below) lost the first championship game 12-9 but rebounded to win the "if" game 17-13 over Dynasty Sisters Mood Swings of California. That prevented a Triple Grand Slam for Dynasty, which won the USA National Championship game 18-2 over Fireballs of Massachusetts during pool play. Not Today of Nevada won four elimination games and finished third in the 22-team bracket. Custom Truck of Nevada won three elimination games and finished fourth.



Women's 40+ AA: The top-seeded FIGO Islanders of Guam (photo below, with family) lost their first bracket game but rebounded to double dip Arizona Desert Belles 9-8 and 17-3 for the crown. Guam Team SOTTA finished third in the three-team bracket.

chalked up 48 All-Tournament awards and 8 MVP awards. He batted a consistent .765 to .900 OBP. Many of his awards were achieved at the Major and Major Plus level.

Tols Mihailoff, Pioneer Player



In his 26 years playing senior softball, Mihailoff (photo above) has earned entry into three other Hall of Fames: The Florida Half Century Hall of Fame, FSSA Legends Hall of Fame, and Collier County Hall of Fame. He won his first World Championship in 1998 at the ASA Nationals in Florida – a year after he started playing senior ball. He went on to win over 35 national championships.

Kurt Mahaney, Manager



Mahaney (photo above) has coached and played on some of the best teams in the country, including MTC, Five Spot, Nor Cal Longhorns and Nazzareno Longhorns. All of those are 50 Major Plus teams.

Born in Modesto, in the California central valley, Mahaney has led those top teams to eight national titles since 2012. He is now managing Cal Energy.



Men's 40+ Major Plus: In a title game that featured 18 home runs, second-seeded JK Inc. Easton/Miken scored the winning run in the bottom of the open inning to defeat fifth-seeded Killman's/Lewis Lawn of South Carolina 29-28. Suncoast Adidas 40s of Florida, which won the USA National Championship game 27-23 over JK, finished third in the 15-team bracket. Front Row/MVP Sports of Texas took fourth.

Men's 40+ Major: Legends Sports of Nevada, which was seeded fifth in the National pod, scored four runs in the bottom of the opening inning to secure a 16-15 championship victory over First Capital of New York, which had been seeded third in the American pod. Smash It Sports NW of Washington earned third in the 48-team bracket, the session's largest. Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks of Arizona finished fourth.

Men's 40+ AAA: Sixth-seeded Gigantes O.C. (photo below), which averaged 22 runs a game, won the title 21-20 over second-seeded GTR of Oregon. GTR won five elimination games to reach the finals. G2G of California placed third in the 24-team bracket. Sindalun Guahan of Guam took fourth.



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