

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 12

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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June 10, 2020 - In This Issue:

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June deadlines coming up for TOC Qualifiers! Don't miss out on the Northeast Championships, Midwest Championships, Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships.

From the Dugout: Where Everyone Should Feel Welcome



By Terry Hennessy

Show Me State Brings SSUSA Back! Busy Father's Day Weekend on Tap in Oklahoma, Arizona, and Florida

SSUSA CEO

What a year – and it is only half over! There are many difficult situations facing players, ranging from concerns over health, livelihoods and serious social issues.

Against this backdrop of chaotic crises, we try to provide a place where players, teams and their families can simply enjoy the game of softball.

We are very lucky because we have a common love of a sport that binds us together.

Make no mistake – there have always been plenty of differences of opinions among players on the issues facing the world outside of softball.

But the beauty of our sport is that we leave them in the parking lot. When we step on the field, our culture of competition unites diverse players into a single team with a common goal. And in Senior Softball we not only enjoy the unity of our team, we enjoy the comradery of playing against friends on other teams.

We love to beat them, of course, but we recognize that the sport also gives us an opportunity to make good friends of our competitors.

Senior Softball USA believes, strongly, that our sport should be a place where everyone feels welcome to play – no matter their beliefs, background, politics or religion ... as long as they obey the rules of the sport and treat others with respect.

This creates a very special place where all feel welcome and can enjoy a simple pursuit of happiness – no matter what happens in the world outside of our sport.

And that is the goal of SSUSA.

Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at terryh@seniorsoftball.com.

SSUSA/ISA Convention Update



Oklahoma Street Outlaws 65 at the 2020 Missouri Open

Senior Softball is back!

The highly anticipated 2020 Missouri Open began last week at the Rainbow Softball Complex in Columbia, with 16 teams opening play in the Men's 65-70 divisions (June 4-5) and 26 teams continuing in the Men's 55-60 divisions (June 6-7). The tournament will conclude this weekend, June 13-14, with 19 teams in the Men's 40-50 divisions.

The tournament, which was the first SSUSA qualifier since the Spring Training Classic in Phoenix, Feb. 28 – March 1, garnered national coverage leading up to the event, with an article in **TIME Magazine**, as well as local coverage in **St. Louis**.

"It went well," said Tournament Director, Will Rogers, on the first two sessions of the Missouri Open. "Teams and players were elated to be playing. We received numerous comments about the quality of umpiring and format."

With players waiting all Spring to get back on the fields following the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown, Mother Nature made them wait a little bit longer. "We had a rain delay the very first day!" said Rogers. "However, we recovered and got the games in."

There will be no rest for Rogers, the 2019 SSUSA Regional Director of the Year, who will put on the annual Oil City Classic in Tulsa, OK., June 18-21. 50 teams are currently scheduled to participate.

Along with Columbia and Tulsa, Yuma, AZ (Southern California State Championships, June 19-21) and Punta Gorda, FL (Sunshine State Showdown, June 19-21) are also set to host SSUSA events in the coming weeks.

The Southern California State Championships mark the first TOC qualifier of the 2020 calendar year. 33 teams will be participating in the Men's 40 – 60 age divisions.

There are six TOC qualifiers on tap for the month July:
Northeast Championships – Syracuse, NY
Midwest Championships – Rogers, AR

Senior Softball USA announced today that it would be postponing its annual convention this year, which was scheduled for Dec. 1-4 in Sacramento.

“We will hold the annual National Rules Committee via conference call after the World Masters Championships this year,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. “In addition, we will elect two Hall of Fame inductees for 2020 via email this year.”

SSUSA said the 2019 SSUSA Hall of Famers would have their choice of being inducted during the 2021 Convention or at a site and time of their choice.

Sacramento will be the site of the 2021 Convention from Nov. 29- Dec. 2, 2021.

The convention scheduled for Branson, Mo., in 2021 will be moved to Nov. 28 – Dec. 2, 2022.

BSN Sports and SSUSA Unite for a Good Cause



In our continuing series of SSUSA sponsors, this week we feature BSN Sports.

BSN Sports and Senior Softball USA (USA) have teamed up with a Unity Shop, which will run for a two-week period – beginning on June 12 and concluding on June 29.

During this time frame, \$3.00 per item will be donated to a food bank of SSUSA's choosing. The shop will include various SSUSA merchandise, such as long sleeve shirts, t-shirts, hoodies, shorts, etc. **CLICK HERE** to see the items. Please visit **seniorsoftball.com** later this week for the

Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships – Salem, OR
Eastern National Championships – Loudoun County, VA
Western National Championships – Sacramento/Pacer, CA
ISA Senior World Series – Columbus/Shelbyville, IN

The Sunshine State Showdown has moved from CenturyLink Park in Ft. Myers to Carmalita Park in Punta Gorda. The change in venue was due to CenturyLink Park currently being used as a COVID-19 testing site.

The Inland Empire Classic, scheduled for June 25-28 in Spokane, Wash., has been cancelled.

Tournament Awards/Entry Fee Update

SSUSA will NOT be handing out individual awards this season in TOC qualifiers. Managers will receive discount coupons for their players from the sponsors.

There are three reasons for this policy:

1. First, and most important, we want to make tournaments more affordable because of the economic impact the pandemic is having on many people. Therefore, we will be cutting all entry fees by 15 percent. This price reduction is only for tournaments administered directly by SSUSA. Tournament fees have been updated on each of the respective tournament pages on seniorsoftball.com
2. We will be re-starting the sport and need to ensure there is enough money to retain staff so that we can maintain the tournaments.
3. Our major sponsors, as you may imagine, have lost a great deal of revenue already and this will also save them much needed capital so that they can continue offering the bats, gloves and products Senior Softball players need. We recommend players buy their equipment from these loyal sponsors, who help keep your entry fees lower.

STATE-BY-STATE BREAKDOWN

All SSUSA tournaments listed below, scheduled through the end of July, remain on as scheduled. Please be sure to email the listed contact for each tournament to enter your team.

Arizona

June 19 - 21: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Yuma, AZ - **CLICK HERE** for tournament schedule.

July 15 - 19: Ernie Jones Memorial/Western States Championships Prescott, AZ - **Deadline July 3.**

link to the Unity Shop.

Additionally, in the current pandemic climate, BSN Sports has you covered with either a **face mask or neck buff**, which you can add on your team logo. The masks (over the ear or over the head) are two-ply and the neck buff is one-ply. Both are washable. Any questions on the masks or neck buff can be directed to Frank Sottile – BSN Sports Sales Pro, via phone (845) 750-0823 or email fsottile@bsnsports.com



BSN Sports is the official ball supplier of SSUSA, providing the Trump Stote Microcell Softball that is used in all SSUSA tournaments, with the exception of tournaments in Las Vegas (Southwest Championships and World Masters Championships), which use the Trump X-Rock Softball.

The man behind the official SSUSA ball is the Rockman, as he is known throughout the sports industry, John Stote.

“Anyone can make a superball,” says Stote. “But it’s important to stay on the specs. If you don’t have a good softball, it doesn’t matter.”

Stote and SSUSA have been partners for over three decades, beginning with Anaconda Sports, then LIDS Sports Group, and now BSN Sports.

“I first met Terry Hennessy at the unification meetings,” continued Stote. “We got together, started testing softballs, and I began attending tournaments. It’s an honor to be the official ball of SSUSA.”

Stote and SSUSA have developed a solid friendship, which even led Stote to attend an SSUSA International Tour to Cuba back in 2011.

Stote was recently honored with the SSUSA Award of Excellence at the 2019

July 25 - 26: 40s Mountain Madness II Flagstaff, AZ - **Deadline July 10.**

Interested teams for the Western States and Mountain Madness should contact tournament director Rick Seifman, via email: tournsport@aol.com or phone: 623-776-2143.

Oklahoma

June 18 - 21: Oil City Classic Tulsa, OK: 50 teams scheduled to attend.

Florida

June 19 - June 21: Sunshine State Showdown Punta Gorda, FL: 30 teams scheduled to attend.

Michigan

June 27 - 28: Holiday Classic Sturgis, MI - **Deadline June 19.**

July 11 - 12: Bobby Chapp Memorial Lansing, MI - **Deadline July 3.**

For more information, please contact tournament director Mike Dembicki, via email: mdembicki@capitaltire.net or phone: 586-202-8376.

New York

July 7 - 12: NORTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIPS Syracuse, NY - **Deadline June 23.**

For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Arkansas

July 7 - 12: MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Rogers, AR - **Deadline June 23.**

For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Texas

July 7 - 12: Aggieland Classic College Station, TX - **Deadline June 23.**

For more information, please contact tournament director Keith Parker, via email: txhcc@yahoo.com or phone: 903-315-6374.

SSUSA Hall of Fame banquet in Las Vegas.

Players, be sure to take advantage of BSN's current promotion – **20% off catalog, free freight, with code SENIOR (valid 6/1/20 – 12/31/20).**



For more information, visit **BSN Sports** online.

OBITUARIES - 6/10/20



James Samuel McAbee

James (Mac) McAbee, 78, of Vancouver, Wash., died on Feb. 19.

McAbee was a long-time member of General Equipment (formerly PDR Fastsigns), playing on the 75s and 70s teams. He also played with CE Johns and Bonaventure Senior Living, among others.

"Mac was a serious competitor at any game from the time he entered school until the very end," said Mike Sisavic, who played with McAbee on the General Equipment/PDR Fastsigns teams. "He competed in everything. He set the 440-yard Intermediate Hurdles record as a

Oregon

July 14 - 19: JIM SHERMAN MEMORIAL/NORTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Salem, OR - **Deadline June 30.**

For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Illinois

July 14 - 19: Quad Cities Classic Rock Island, IL - **Deadline June 30.**

For more information, please contact tournament director Kenny Chard, klchard@yahoo.com or 309-721-9633.

Maryland

July 17 - 20: Bert Bennett Memorial Westminster, MD - **Deadline July 3.**

For more information, contact tournament director, Tim McElroy, via email: PotomacSports1@gmail.com or phone: 301-514-2676.

Alabama

July 18 - 19: Cullman Qualifier Cullman, AL - **Deadline July 3.**

For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Kansas

July 23 - 26: Wes Weddle Classic Shawnee, KS - **Deadline July 9.**

For more information, please contact tournament director Randy Rowe 816-718-3221 rrr5850@aol.com.

Washington

July 25 - 26: Smash It Sports Invite Enumclaw, WA - **Deadline July 10.**

For more information on the tournament in Enumclaw, please contact director Tom Israelson (206-841-9955 or israelsonjtj@comcast.net).

California

July 28 - August 2: WESTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Sacramento/Placer Counties, CA - **Deadline July 7.**

Junior at Portland State University, a record that I believe still stands. Mac remarked that 'If they would let old guys drive race cars, I would be out there,' and 'If this competition is only for fun, why are we keeping score.'"

"Mac will be remembered for his great passion and remarkable zest for life."



Robert Presant

Bob Presant, 74, of Oakdale, Calif., died on May 18.

Presant was a long-time member of SSUSA, playing on various teams including The Farm, Prime Time, California Wrecking Crew, and The Who.

"Bob was a great guy and excellent player," said Chet Lane, manager of California Wrecking Crew. "He was a credit to senior softball and a friend to all who knew him."

A member of the Stanislaus Senior Softball Association since 1996, Presant was elected into the Stanislaus Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2010.

Reminder that this year teams do NOT have to play in a qualifier to compete in the Western Nationals.

For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Virginia

July 28 - August 2: EASTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS Loudoun County, VA - **Deadline July 7.**

Reminder that this year teams do NOT have to play in a qualifier to compete in the Eastern Nationals.

For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Indiana

July 31 - August 2: ISA SENIOR WORLD SERIES Columbus/Shelbyville, IN - **Deadline July 17.**

For more information, please contact Amy Jackson at 309-267-8324 or ajackson@dist102.org.



Paul W. Zalus

Paul Zalus, 72, of St. George, Utah, died on June 9.

Zalus began playing with teams out of Ohio, as a member of Steel Dawgs and Dayton Legends, among others. He then played with teams from Colorado, playing with various Scrap Iron teams. He last played in 2015 with Scrap Iron/CO T-Wolves 65.

Along with playing, Zalus was a long-time umpire with SSUSA.

"Our St. George Tuesday/Thursday 70/80 league lost a great one," said Dan Kelly. "Paul was a very good pitcher and that damn 15" OF glove sucked up a lot of balls near the mound. Even with a bag on each side for body waste, he still umpired and played. UIC KC and I will miss our Super Bowl games at Paul and Vivian's home. RIP my friend."

In Memoriam

Linda Dorsett (1946 – 2020) – wife of SSUSA member John Dorsett

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