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2023 Atlantic Coast Championships and KC Metro SSL Logos with 2023 Bobby Chapp Memorial Action Shot.

Four Elected into 2023 Senior Softball USA International Hall of Fame

Softball News Report

A power hitter, an international director who helped build the sport in Asia and two pioneers who spent decades developing senior softball were elected into the Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) Hall of Fame in 2023.

"These four inductees represent the best aspects of our sport," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA's executive director. "They represent excellence in athletics, in managing, and in helping the sport to grow in America and in Asia."

Here are the newest SSUSA Hall of Famers:

<u>Player Category:</u> Louise O'Donnell of Corbin City, New Jersey:

Fierce Competition and Close Games in the 2023 Atlantic Coast Championships



By Donna McGuire Softball News Reports

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Close games and see-saw championship bouts highlighted play during a competitive Atlantic Coast Championships tournament that drew 53 teams here in mid-May.

Except for steady rains that washed out nearly all Friday play, teams enjoyed near perfect weather while battling May 16-21 at the picturesque, nine-field Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Competition was so fierce that only four teams finished undefeated. One out of every four games ended in a one-run victory. And half of the divisions needed an "if"



Louise has played in Senior Softball USA since 2008 on some of the best teams in the nation – both East and West. The teams include Arizona Dream Team, Firestyx, and Team Works. Known for her power hitting, Louise has won the home run contest at the Tournament of Champions several times. "Louise is a powerful hitter and excellent player – and her positive attitude toward the game and other players makes her a wonderful example," said Fran Dowell.

<u>Director Category:</u> Zhaoli Chen of Japan:



Zhaoli has taken a leading role in developing slow-pitch softball throughout Asia since 2010. She was named Executive Director of the Pacific Rim Slow-Pitch Softball Federation and has helped coordinate the Federation for the past decade, which includes representatives from Japan, China, Taiwan, USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Macau and Guam. The Federation was created to help foster international friendship through sports. The Pacific Rim Championships moves to each member country each year. "She has also been instrumental in introducing the sport in schools throughout China and is involved in

championship game to crown a winner.

Fans also witnessed a walk-off home run, a special birthday celebration, and Cinderella finishes by five teams that lost their first bracket games — only to never lose again.

"It's hard to come back through the loser's bracket, but it can be done," manager Chris Williams said after Extra Innings/OBF of Virginia won five games in a row on championship Sunday to claim the men's 55+ AAA title. "We just had to keep hitting and keep fighting."

The Carolina A's of North Carolina also won five in a row Sunday, including a 26-25 finale. Capturing the 60+ Major title capped a great weekend for player Drew Pearson and his wife, Donna, who surprised Donna's dad with an 82nd birthday party during Saturday's games. Balloons, a banner and a food banquet floored the honoree, Johnny Lee, a former Navy submariner who survived serious health scares a year ago.



Donna Pearson's dad with a 82nd birthday party at the tournament. Honoree Johnny Lee (right, sitting in his walker) and his wife, Carolyn Lee, (left, sitting on her scooter) watched the games surrounded by the large birthday display.

"Is that for me?" Lee asked when he saw the balloon display, which the Pearsons carted from backstop to backstop so that Lee could sit with it and watch games alongside his wife.

The tournament's four unbeaten teams included Talaga Construction of Connecticut, but even that 65+ Major title did not come easily. Talaga scored five runs in the bottom of the sixth to take a 14-10 lead over Pill & Pill 65s of West Virginia. Four batters into the seventh, Pill & Pill had closed the gap to 14-13 with only one out. A fly ball and ground out later, Talaga finally celebrated.

"It was definitely a team effort," manager Dee Kuchinsky said afterward.

Venom of Florida (70/75+ Platinum), 4 Seasons/Evil Sports of Massachusetts (50+ AAA), and Dan Smith/Steve Smith of Georgia (55+ Major) also finished undefeated.

Overall, 14 division winners earned berths to the 2024 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida.

Results:

Men's 40+ Masters Major Plus: In a best-of-three format, Killman's/Lewis Lawn/Demarini of South Carolina (photo below) needed all three games to defeat HDI of Virginia, 28-12, 20-26, and 38-21. Killman's broke open the finale by scoring 12 in the top of the seventh.

several sports education boards in both China and Japan," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. Zhaoli also is the Executive Director of Senior Softball USA/China.

<u>Manager Category:</u> Mike Sisavic of Portland, Oregon:



Mike loves the game of softball and has been playing what he calls the "perfect" game for about 75 years starting in the concrete playgrounds in New York City. He entered the senior softball community 50+ years ago in Portland, Oregon and playing softball changed - from recreation and exercise to a whole new way of life. He was a player-manager with dozens of teams winning many local, regional, national tournaments and 22 rings. His teams won four Triple Grand Slam championship in the 75s and 80s divisions.

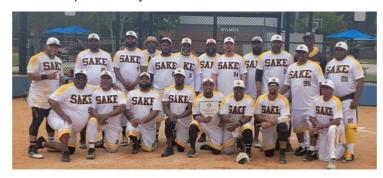
Mike helped shape the sport as a member of SSUSA's Player Advisory Committee and the Senior Softball Summit Association. Sisavic is also the Northwest Director for Senior Softball USA.

Mike also has been a goodwill ambassador to promote senior softball by participating in the inaugural SS USA Goodwill Games to Japan, Mexico, and Cuba. Mike was inducted into the National Hall of Fame in 2015.

<u>Manager Category:</u> Dick Anderson of St. Anthony, Minnesota:

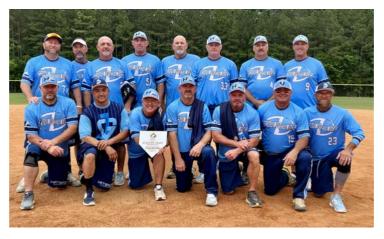


Men's 40+ Masters Major: Certified Ground Breakers of Maryland (photo below) lost its first bracket game by one run then reeled off four victories in a row to win the four-team division. In a thrilling finish, it narrowly double-dipped the PA Legends 20-19 and 26-25. Shinbiscuits/Potomac Sports of Maryland took third.



Men's 40+ Masters AAA: Top-seeded Gigantes O.C. of Maryland lost its first bracket game but won three in a row to win the three-team division. It defeated the Black Kings of Maryland 15-13 for the title. The Smokin Aces/American Legion Post #327 of Virginia finished third.

Men's 50+ Major: Automotive Triage/JG Construction/Haterz Athletics of North Carolina (photo below) lost its first bracket game by one run then won three in a row, including a 22-21 championship finale over Roebell Painting/Paradise/Allstate of New York. After Roebell scored seven in the top of the seventh to take a 21-19 lead, Automotive Triage scored three in the bottom to nab the win. Walkoff of Maryland finished third in the three-team bracket.



Men's 50+ AAA: 4 Seasons/Evil Sports of Massachusetts (photo below) went 5-0 and won the title with a 19-17 victory over runner-up Old Skool/GTS Sports of Pennsylvania. Maryland Classics 50s finished third in the four-team bracket.



Dick not only manages teams, but he was the driving force in establishing senior softball in Minnesota – and he was instrumental in the national creation of the 80 division in 2010, the 85 division in 2015 and the 90 division in 2022. He not only managed the 90s East Team, but also was one of the standout players in the first-ever 90s competition.

Dick was born a pioneer.

Even more impressive is Dick Anderson's work off the field. He founded the Edison High School Sports Foundation that has raised more than a million dollars in scholarships. Dick also founded and was president of the Minnesota Sports Association and has been inducted into the Minnesota ASA and Minnesota USSSA Halls of Fame.

Minnesota Honors Team in Hall of Fame

Softball News Report

A team that won several National Championships over more than a decade was inducted into the Minnesota Senior Sports Association Hall of Fame Banquet on May 19.

For 13 years, from 2002-2015, a team that was known under several sponsor names – Minnesota Coffee Cup, Minnesota Miken and Jimmy's Minnesota Gold, (photo below) – chalked up seven national titles in the largest senior softball tournaments in the country.



Men's 50/55+ AA: In a best-of-three format, the 50+ AA team Flatline/Van Metre Homes of Virginia swept the 55+ AA team Longshoremen of Virginia 21-20 and 24-15.

Men's 55+ Major: Dan Smith/Steve Smith, which went 5-0, recorded more lop-sided victories than close ones. It defeated .50 Core Sports & Apparel/Grit Hounds of Virginia 26-9 in the championship game of the five-team bracket. Infoquest.com of Pennsylvania finished third.

Men's 55+ AAA: Extra Innings (photo below) lost its first bracket game by one run but never lost again. It captured the title with a 20-18 victory over Xtreme Home Improvements & Restoration/New York Fitness Clubs/Frederick's of Pennsylvania when John Maddern hit a three-run, walk-off home run using a bat he had bought the previous day and named Precious. Holy City Hitmen of South Carolina took third in the six-team bracket.



Men's 60+ Major: The Carolina A's defeated top-seeded The Bank 18-9 and 26-25 in the title games. Olympian Athletics of Pennsylvania took third in the five-team bracket.

Men's 60+ Silver: The top-seeded Hudson Valley Cyclones (photo below) only lost once — in the first championship game, 18-16. In the "if" game, the Cyclones led Turn 2 Electric of North Carolina the entire way and won 19-11. The New England Vipers of Connecticut finished third in the seven-team division.



MSSA inducted individuals from several sports at the 7th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet, including Norm Setnicker (photo below), 81, who plays on Minnesota Masters 75s.



The Minnesota team, led by manager Mick Lauber, won:

- The 2002 USSSA 65 division World Championship in Salem, Ore.
- The 2003 SSUSA 65 AAA World Championship in Mobile, Ala.
- The 2005, SPA 65 World Champions in Plano, Tex.
- The 2007 Senior Softball World Series 70 title in Des Moines, Iowa.
- The 2013 SSUSA 75 World Championships in Las Vegas.
- The 2014 Tournament of Champions in Lakeland, Florida.
- The 2015 the National Senior Games 75 Champion in Minneapolis.

"We are very happy for those who are being recognized for their excellent contributions to their sport," said Senior Softball USA CEO Terry Hennessy, who introduced the team. "Even more important, they represent the best parts of all of us."

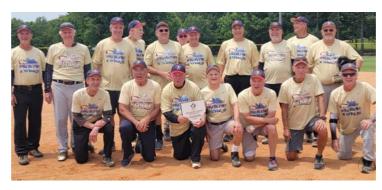




Men's 65+ Major: Talaga Construction (photo below) went 5-0 and defeated Pill & Pill 14-13 in the title game. Bassa/Old Skool took third in the three-team bracket.



Men's 65+ AAA: Northern Virginia Force 65s (photo below) knocked off the topseeded Hudson Valley Cyclones of New York 12-7 to win the five-team bracket. Peak Softball/Scrap Iron of Colorado finished third.



Men's 70/75+ Platinum: Venom (photo below), a 75+ Major Plus team, defeated the 70+ Major team Pill & Pill 17-13 and 21-14 in a best-of-three format.



Paul Durbin



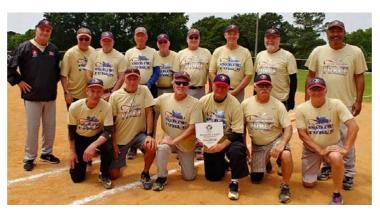
Leon 'Paul' Durbin, 82, of Naples, FL and Monument, CO., died May 8.

Paul was long time resident of Monument, Colo., playing on a handful of Scrap Iron senior softball teams since 2011, before retiring in Naples, Fla., last year.

He devoted his time to family, community service and sports. He volunteered "for Readers Literacy programs, Tri- Lakes Cares, The Soup Kitchen, and... was an active member of the Knights of Columbus," according to his online obituary.

"He was an avid sports fan; especially the Red Sox," as he grew up near Boston, "and lived a dream playing at Fenway Park during Fantasy Camp."

Paul has played with the Scrap Iron Red 70s, Scrap Iron Force 70s, and Scrap Iron Grey Berets Base Force 80s. **Men's 70/75+ Gold:** Northern Virginia Force 70s (photo below) defeated Northern Virginia Force 75s 14-10 to win the three-team division. Code Electric/Oakes Grading/LeBleu Cobras finished third.



Several 'IF' Games Played in the 2023 Top Gun Tune-Up

By Donna McGuire Softball News Report

Forty-five teams clashed during two sessions of The Proton Top Gun Tune-Up held in mid-May at the Big League Dreams ballpark in Perris, Calif.

All but one team hailed from California in competition that ranged from the 50+ to 75/80+ age groups.

The 65+ and older groups played a Monday-Tuesday schedule May 15-16. The younger teams opened play May 19 for a three-day weekend session.

The games showcased talented play and spirited competition, with many of the divisions requiring an "if" championship game to determine a winner, tournament director Jerry Smith said.

All the top-finishing teams were based in California.

Results:

Men's 50/55+ Platinum: Asylum Ballers (photo below) lost the winner's final by one run to the Top Gun Diamonds but rallied to double dip the Diamonds 22-7 and 21-6 in the championship games. Top-seeded Stadium finished third in the seven-team division.



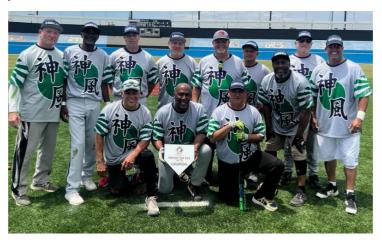
Men's 50+ AAA: Viejos So Cal (photo below) needed all three games of the best-of-three format to subdue the Top Gun Renegades 21-10, 13-17, 13-10.



Men's 55+ Major: Showtime (photo below) entered bracket play as the third seed out of three teams but came out on top by double-dipping top-seeded lnk Games 22-15 and 29-28. The Top Gun Phantom, which scored 40 runs in a pool game, finished third.



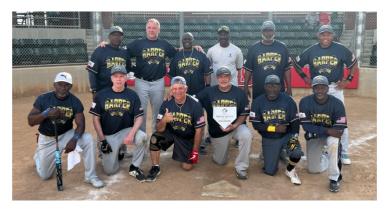
Men's 55+ AAA: Fourth-seeded Kamikaze (photo below) knocked off the top two seeds enroute to winning the title, including a 17-3 championship game victory over Top Gun Storm. Dirty Sox finished third in the six-team division.



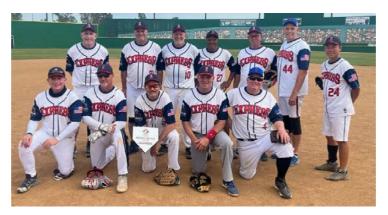
Men's 60+ AA: In a best-of-three format, Advil Knights (photo below) swept So Cal Riptide 21-11 and 20-16.



Men's 60+ AAA: Harper Boys (photo below) won the tournament's largest division by double-dipping Top Gun Fury 18-8 and 21-20 in the championship games. Weekend Warriors 60s finished third in the nine-team bracket.



Men's 60+ Platinum: Express 60s (photo below) lost the first title game 22-15 but rebounded to take the second 21-18 over the top-seeded Enforcers. Top Gun Warriors finished third in the four-team division.

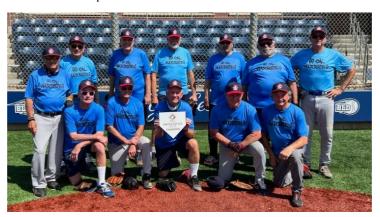


Men's 65/70+ Gold: Top Gun Olde Dawgs 70 went 4-1 and won the "if" championship game 20-14 over Lights Out 65. Git-R-Done 70 finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 65+ AAA: In a best-of-three format, Top Gun Stealth lost the first game 17-12 but then defeated the Weakened Warriors 16-6 and 11-4 to claim the crown.

Men's 70+ Major: No Guts, No Glory and Over the Edge split the first two games of their best-of-three format and agreed not to play the finale because too many players needed to leave. Over the Edge won the first game 15-8. No Guts, No Glory won the second game 11-10.

Men's 75/80+ Gold: Top-seeded So Cal Warriors (photo below) lost the first title game 9-8 but rebounded to win the second 14-10. SoCal Gusto, which played five games the final day, finished second. Top Gun Gold 80s took third in the five-team bracket.



2023's Second Charity Tournament Concludes in Waterloo Iowa

By Nic Francois Softball News Report

WATERLOO, Iowa – This year's second charity tournament, run by Jim Bagbey, concluded in Waterloo Iowa, May 18-21.

47 teams from six Midwest states not only competed for the championship places, but played for a good cause. After expenses, remaining revenue are donated to the Kadens Kloset Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Kadens Kloset is a 100% volunteer and donation run not-for-profit organization that assists children in foster care and their foster parents with clothing and other necessities in the Waterloo and Cedar Falls communities and beyond.



Bagbey's partnership with Kadens Kloset started "three years ago," according to Jim, "about the time I was getting ready to direct our first lowa Senior Softball USA qualifiers in West Des Moines in April and Waterloo in May 2021, I was looking at different charity options."

"We have a very personal family connection with children in foster care," added Jim. His daughter fostered and adopted three kids, Mikey, Salina, and Myles.

"My three youngest grandchildren were first children in foster care and are now a forever part of our family," said Jim.

Given the Bagbeys' connection to foster care, Jim was introduced to Kadens Kloset by the Waterloo Softball Association and are now the beneficiaries of both of his lowa based tournament.

"In 2022, between tournament income and business sponsorships, we were able to give Kadens Kloset over \$5,400 for their Humboldt, Ankeny, Waterloo, and Cedar Falls locations. We just finished the two tournaments this year and while the final figures aren't tallied, I am guessing... that our donations to Kadens Kloset will be close to \$7,000 to help the foster parents and the children in their care."

If you are interested in finding out more about Kadens Kloset please visit: www.kadenskloset.com and sign up your team for the two 2024 Iowa SSUSA Senior Softball charity tournaments next year.

2023 Waterloo, Iowa Senior Open Results:

Men's 50+ AAA-AA: Priority Construction Services/MN L-jacks 50s, (photo below), second-seeded, fought their way through the elimination bracket to double dip the finalists, MN 50 Core in a narrow championship game, 15-14 and IF game, 22-21. Windy City 50s came in third.



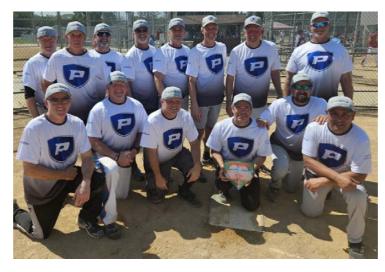
Men's 50/55+ Major: Due to the mixed age division, Iowa Demons 55 (photo below) took the 55 Major Champion title while the Iowa Demons 50 team took the 50 Major title. Pope Transport 55 (WI) took last place in the three-team bracket.



Men's 55+ AAA: After losing both of their seeding games, Minnesota Lumberjacks 55s went undefeated in their bracket, claiming first place. Isle Edge Trucking (WI) worked their way through the elimination bracket place second in the Championship game, 12-21. Magic (WI) took third place.

Men's 60+ AAA: Of the seven teams in the largest bracket of the tournament, the seventh-seeded team, Lumberjacks Red (MN) won every bracket game except their first and even double dipped the finalists, and at the time, undefeated, Free Agents (IL). Team Illinois 60s, which originally defeated the Lumberjack Reds in their first game, lost the 3rd place game to them, 24-14.

Men's 60+ Major-Major Plus: Again, due to the mixed age division, Minnesota Merchants were crowned the 60 Major Plus Champions, and Minnesota Premier (photo below) the 60 Major Champions. This meant no championship game was necessary. The Omaha Silver Bullets/Minleon finished third.



Men's 65+ Major-Major Plus: Pope Transport 65 (WI – Major, photo below), losing their first game to finalists KC Kids 65s (MO), 20-13, rebounded and was able to double dip the Kids 23-21 then 22-13 for the Championship. Originally first-seeded Midwest Prime 65 (IL) claimed third place.

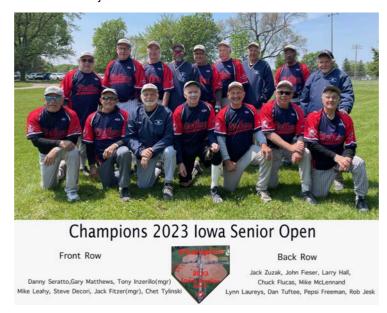


Men's 70+ AA-AAA-Major: This unique five-team bracket resulted in three championship titles. The Minnesota River Bats won first place in the brackets and were the 70 Major Champions.Oshkosh Ambassadors 70 Red (WI - AAA - photo below) placed second and earned the 70 AAA title and the Minnesota Lumberjacks 70s, third in the brackets, won the 70 AA title.



Men's 75+ AA-AAA-Major: In this round robin division, Chicago Strikers (photo below) finished as the 75 Major Champions, Minnesota Masters 75s earned the 75 AAA

title, and the Minnesota Lumberjacks 75s took the 75 AA title.



Kansas City Metro SSL Hosts 13th Annual 2023 Wes Weddle Classic

By Clint Berger & Nic Francois Softball News Report

LEE'S SUMMIT, MO.. and OLATHE, KAN. – 38 teams, representing six states, competed in the 2023 Wes Weddle Classic, May 18-21.

This year's annual Wes Weddle marks the 13th anniversary of this tournament, sanctioned by Senior Softball USA back in 2011. The tournament's namesake is Wes Weddle, the founder of the Kansas City Metro Senior Softball League, which hosts the Wes Weddle Classic.



The first session of the tournament was the victim of Mother Nature's rain which started around 10 o'clock Friday morning and continued through the end of the day. Some divisions were revised to shortened games and some were cancelled with the winners declared, whichever teams was in the lead at the time of cancellation.

Session two remained unaffected by weather and was "able to provide a more detailed listings for the Saturday/Sunday division games," according to Tournament Director and President of the K.C. Metro League Clint Berger.

Results:

Men's 50+ Major: This championship was captured by Senior Dogs (MO) with a narrow 21-20 win over Minleon-Maher (NE) in a best 2 out of 3 game format.

Men's 50+ AAA: KC Vintage (MO) won this division 24-23 as a result of a 3-run walk-off home run in the IF game against the second-seeded SSC/Persuaders (KS) who worked their way through the elimination bracket. Suncoast Midwest 50s II (MO) took third place.

Men's 55+ Major: Vectra International/Big Biscuit (KS) came through the elimination bracket to face KC Elite (MO - photo below) in the championship game. Vectra won the 1st championship game 25-7, but then lost to KC Elite 18-17 in the IF game via a solo-shot walk-off home run in the bottom of the open inning. Team Mission (MO) took third place out of four teams.



Men's 55+ AAA: The fight for this crown came down to Alliance/Scrap Iron 55 (CO) and KC Stampede (MO). Alliance/Scrap Iron won the IF game, 17-10, with KC Stampede finishing as the finalists. Shockers (MO) finished in last place.

Men's 60+ Major: Dudley Lightning 60 (MO - photo below) came through the elimination bracket to face Swingcoast Roofing (MO) in the Championship game. Dudley won 21-17 and then successfully double dipped Swingcoast Roofing, despite Swingcoast hitting two home runs in the open inning, making it close, 23-22. KC Elite finished third.



Men's 60+ AAA: This six-team division was the largest in the tournament. Second-seeded Triple Crown (MO) went undefeated in the brackets, winning over Minnesota Thunder, 22-21. KC Stampede (MO) took third in a close 3rd place game against the finalists, Minnesota Thunder.

Men's 65+ Major: Minnesota Masters/Ancell was the lone, undefeated team in the championship bracket at the time of cancellation due to the weather and therefore the champion. The finalists, Dudley Lightning 65s (MO), were the last surviving team in the elimination bracket and was due to play Minnesota Masters/Ancell before the cancellation. Blue Speed AV (MO) came in third.

Men's 65+ AAA: Big Daddy's Donuts 65 (MO - photo below), again, were the lone, undefeated team in championship bracket at the time of cancellation due to the rain and were therefore the champion. Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO) was the last team to enter the

elimination bracket and finished as the finalists. Third place went to 50 Caliber 65s (MO) as the last team to survive in the elimination bracket at the time of cancellation.



Men's 70+ M-AAA: Due to the rain out, this division has Co-Champions – KC Kids (MO - Major) and Midwest A's 70s (MO - AAA) as they were the two teams scheduled to play in the championship game when the tournament was cancelled. Carriage Homes Patriots (OK - AAA) finished third.

Men's 70/75+ AAA-AA: As with the 70s division, Co-Champions – KC Kids (MO – 75AAA) and Not Dead Yet (KS – 70AA) were the two teams scheduled to play in the winner's bracket's next game when the tournament was cancelled. OK-ARK (OK – 75AAA) finished third.

US and Canadian Teams Battle Each Other in the 2023 Bobby Chapp Memorial

By Nic Francois Softball News Report

LANSING, MICH. – 30 teams from five states and Ontario, Canada, had fun battling each other and the weather at the 2023 Bobby Chapp Memorial here May 19-21.

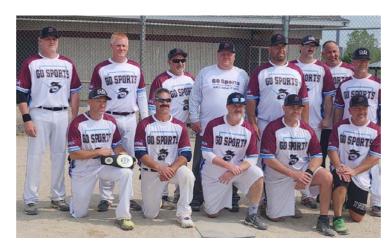
"It was a typical mid-May Michigan weekend," according to Tournament Director Mike Dembicki. "Rain on Friday and chilly on Saturday ending with warm and sunny on Sunday."

"The field crew at Lake Alliance in Pottersville, was great at getting the fields done in those conditions," he added.

Similar to the Wayne Gilmore Memorial, featured in an earlier newsletter this year, Bobby Chapp is the tournament's namesake. He was a local player out of Michigan who passed away during the tournament in 2008. The tournament was previously known as the Lansing Regional Qualifier.

Results:

Men's 50+ Major: In this seven-team bracket, first-seeded Go Sports/3AC/Reuter-Stokes (OH - photo below) went undefeated, taking the championship game 21-20 over the Regeee's Rams (ON, Can.). Chitown Assault/Truly Hard Seltzer/T2Auto claimed third.



Men's 50+ AAA: The fourth-seeded Pro V/CSN Apparel (MI - photo below) also went undefeated in their seven-team bracket. First-seeded Area 51 50s (MI) lost their first bracket game and worked their way to the Championship game, finishing in second place, 15-22. Prodigy (MI) won their first two game then lost two in a row to take third place.



Men's 55+ AAA-AA: Due to the mixed rating division, both the champions and the finalists earned titles. Buddies, Sampson's, Mid-Michigan Merchants (photo, lower left), won the 55 AA title while finalists, Gray Ghosts (IL) claimed the 55 AAA title. Team OG 55 (MI – AAA) took third place.





Men's 55/60+ Major: PRS Softball (MI - 55s - photo below) went undefeated in their bracket, winning each game by an average of five runs or more. MPH Logistics/Larry's Tire/Wolfpack (MI - 60s) placed second and Tiffany's (MI - 55s) finished third.



Men's 65+ Gold: MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI – AAA) defeated BJM Bomb Squad 65s (IL – AAA), 14-9, in an IF game on Saturday night, blocking finalists, BJM Bomb Squad's chance to double dip. Mike Ott, MP Components' MVP, played all day Friday and Saturday despite spraining his shoulder the first day, only to find out on Sunday that his shoulder was actually separated. Minnesota Lumberjacks came in third in the division.

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