

June 13, 2023 - In This Issue:

- 80/85+ Game Plays 10th Inning During the 2023 Rock N Reno Cup
- 5 Teams Go Undefeated in the 2023 Don Brooks/Crabtown Classic
- Good Weather, Close Games Dominate the 2023 Heart of Texas
- News and TV Coverage of 35th Annual 2023 Rock 'N Reno
- Obituaries – June 2023



2023 Rock 'N Reno Logo and Local News Coverage.

News and TV Coverage of 35th Annual 2023 Rock 'N Reno

By Nic Francois
Softball News Report

RENO, NV. – Senior Softball USA's 35th Annual Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup is the oldest senior softball tournament in the world and one of the largest senior tournaments.

191 teams came to Reno between May 26 and June 4, including teams from Hawaii, Alaska and Canada.

The signature senior tournament attracted two news agencies:

KOLO – ABC 8



Kurt Schroeder, sports director of KOLO – ABC 8, came out to Golden Eagle Complex on May 27 during session one while the Men's 40s,

80/85+ Game Plays 10th Inning During the 2023 Rock N Reno Cup

By Donna McGuire
Softball News Report

RENO, Nev. - Nearly 200 teams from 13 states and Canada descended on northern Nevada to compete in the granddaddy of senior softball tournaments – the 35th Annual Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup.

Some great-grandpas generated some of the tournament's greatest buzz by playing an edge-of-your-seat game that spanned two and one-half hours.

General Equipment 80s of Oregon finally dispatched Top Gun Glue Angels 85s of California 26-25 in the bottom of the 10th inning at Shadow Mountain Softball Complex in Sparks, Nev. The teams were tied 10-10 after five, 13-13 after seven, 14-14 after eight, and 22-22 after nine innings in what was both teams' first bracket game. (Game Card Below).

ACTUAL START: 1217

SENIOR SOFTBALL USA
9823 Old Winery Place • Suite 12 • Sacramento, CA 95827 • (916) 326.5303

HR = open /Team/Game • Outs 80/85 MT DIVISION #1

OFFICIAL GAME CARD

FACILITY: Shadow Mtn DIAMOND: 4 DATE: 5/31/23

GAME TIME: 1230pm PLAYING TIME: 70 *open EQUAL: 5-Run 7-Run 11-Def.
GAME TIME, AS LISTED ON THE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE, IS ALSO FORFEIT TIME

TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL	HR's
VISITOR <u>Top Gun Glue 85</u>	0	0	2	4	6	8	10	11	13	14	25	0
HOME <u>General 80</u>	5	5	7	7	10	10	13	14	22	26	0	

SIGNATURES:
UMPIRE(S): Jeff Colbych #6 VISITOR MANAGER RS VERIFY SCORE FIRST! 25
HOME MANAGER [Signature] VERIFY SCORE FIRST! 26

UMPIRE COMMENTS:

Rev. 10/06/2022

60s and all Women's divisions played.

Rick Hernandez of SMASH 60s (CA), Doug Smith and Mario Garcia of West Coast United 40s (CA), and Senior Softball USA's CEO Terry Hennessy were featured in the video and article. They all highlight the camaraderie, the ability to still play despite age, and coming to Reno to win.

Nevada Sports Network



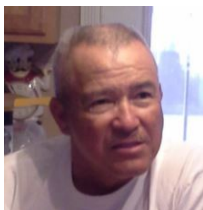
Nikki Pica of Nevada Sports Network also visited Golden Eagle Complex on June 2, during the third and final session while the Men's 50-55s played.

While the video features Dave Dowell, SSUSA's master scheduler, the story primarily follows a father and son at Golden Eagle. James Crane of CaliGold 50s was playing in Reno as his father, John Crane, a retired senior softball player watched. John Crane used to play with California Olden Bears and Bringin the Pain (CA) before retiring.

James' parents were traveling between complexes to also watch James' brother, Keith Crane, who plays on Cali Gold 50 in that same session.

Obituaries – June 2023

Marcelino C. Villanueva Sr.



Marcy Villanueva, 68, of North Las Vegas, NV., died on May 12 from cancer.

Marcy played with several Las Vegas based teams, and was an

"Look at that ninth inning," one commenter noted after seeing the scorecard posted on Facebook. "What a great back-and-forth game. Only 25 years until I get to play that age bracket."

Twenty-six of the 191 participating teams earned berths to the 2024 Tournament of Champions in Polk County, Florida, by winning their age and rating division during games played at parks in Carson City, Sparks and Reno. Nine days of games began May 26 and concluded June 4.

"Sparks, Reno and Carson City always put out the best welcome for all of us," Senior Softball USA Executive Director Fran Dowell said. "It was a great tournament."

Though the weather largely cooperated, scattered showers caused some games to be moved from the Shadow Mountain Softball Complex and the Reno Softball Complex at Rancho San Rafael. Those games played instead on the turf fields at Golden Eagle Regional Park in Sparks.

Teams came from as far away as Texas, Minnesota, Hawaii and Alaska to participate in one of the most-competitive SSUSA tournaments of the year.

Results:

Women's 40+ Masters Major: TABU of California ([photo below](#)) double-dipped Still Grubbing of California 12-11 and 22-4 after losing to the same team earlier in bracket play. Flash Mob of California finished third in the three-team bracket.



Women's 40+ Masters Silver: Dynasty Sisters Mood Swings ([photo below](#)), an AAA team from California, lost the first championship game 25-21 to Girls on Top (G.O.T.) of California but persevered in the second 16-7. Royal-T Real Estate/The LaFlamme Group of Washington placed third in the eight-team bracket.

umpire with Senior Softball USA.

"Marcy joined the LVSSA in 2013... Marcy played with both our recreational groups – our 64 and under group and our 65 and over group," said Rod Adams, Vice President of the LVSSA Board. "Marcy could pitch, play the infield and outfield, run, throw, catch – truly an all-tool player."

He "recently played for the Los Vatos Viejos II 65s AA - a team [out of Vegas] that won the 2022 Spring Worlds in St. George," Rod added.

Since 2015 with Senior Softball USA, in addition to Los Vatos Viejos II 65s, Marcy has played with LVSSA Raiders 60s, Family 60s & 65s (NV), Kamikaze 60s (CA), Vegas Hui 55s, and 702 Ballers 60s (NV).

Lloyd A. Dethloff



Lloyd Dethloff, 68, of Killingworth, CT., died on May 8, due to complications with a chronic illness.

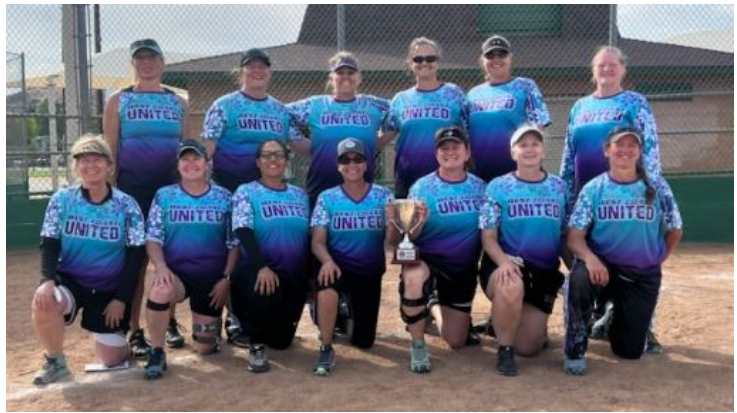
After his retirement, Lloyd joined Senior Softball USA through his local Connecticut senior leagues in 2017.

Although he played several sports such as basketball and golf, "softball brought him acknowledged achievement," according to his online obituary. "His Wallingford league team won the league title in 2021; his Talaga Construction [65 Major] team won five tournaments in 2021 [and] his Madison league team won the end of season tournament in 2022."

For Lloyd's SSUSA affiliation, he played on these Connecticut teams: Mike's Blue Collar 60s, Talaga Construction 65s and Leeds Construction 60s. He finished the 2022 season with Talaga



Women's 50+ Gold: Top-seeded West Coast United (photo below), an AAA team from California, double dipped Takin' Chances of California 16-11 and 11-10 after losing by one run to the same team earlier in bracket play. Old Nasty Curves of California finished third in the seven-team division.



Women's 55+ Seniors: Top-seeded Arizona Dream Team (photo below) lost the winner's bracket final but returned to double dip second-seeded Adrenalin of Nevada 18-1 and 15-5 for the title. B.O.O.B.S of California finished third in the six-team division.



Men's 40+ Masters Platinum: In the tournament's largest bracket, 18th-seeded BT Bombers/Six Pac of California (photo below) went 0-2 in pool play but never lost in six bracket games. The 40+ Major team defeated the top two seeds before dispatching Battleborn NV/Asurea 40s, the 22nd seed, in the championship game 28-19. Top-seeded Project 57 of Idaho finished third in the 22-team bracket.

Construction at the World Championships in Las Vegas.

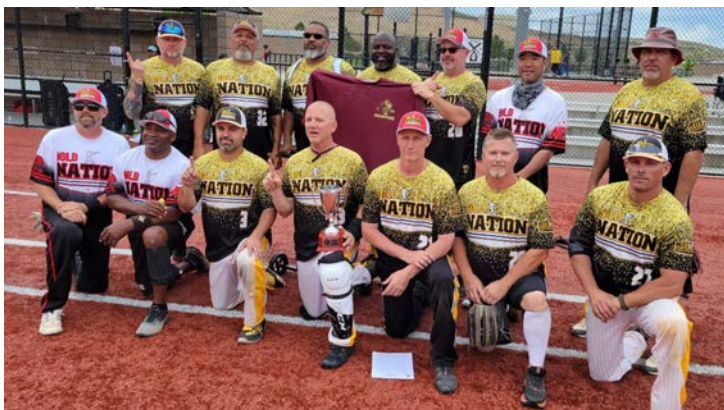


Men's 40+ Masters AAA: After losing in the winner's bracket finale, third-seeded G2G of California doubled dipped GTR of Oregon 21-19 and 27-21 in the title games. T.N.T. (Tacos & Tequila) of California finished third in the six-team division.

Men's 50+ AAA: Eleventh-seeded Band of Brothers of Utah (photo below) lost the first title game 21-17 but won the second 12-9 to capture the 14-team division. Rolfe & Company of California took second. Thunder Buddies of Arizona finished third.

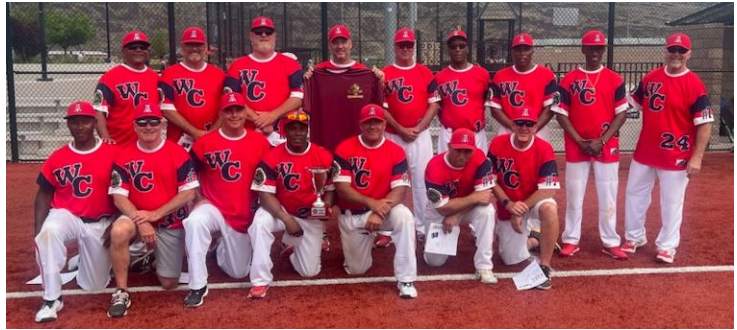


Men's 50/55+ Platinum: Gold Nation 50s of California (photo below) went 7-1 overall, including 21-11 and 20-17 victories in the title games against G.O. Softball/Mae Capital of California, to win the 12-team bracket. L.A.F. 55 of California won five elimination games to finish third.



Men's 55+ Major: Third-seeded Aftershock 55 of California (photo below) averaged 25 runs a game in bracket play and captured the title with a 23-16 victory over

sixth-seeded Damage NV. DeMarini/Torch Eyewear of Oregon placed third in the eight-team bracket.

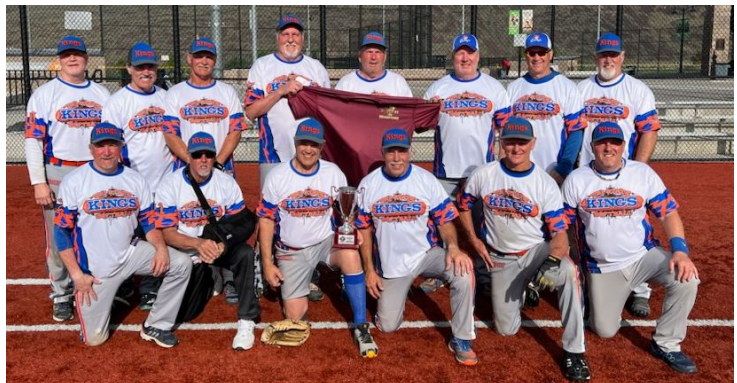


Men's 55+ Silver: Third-seeded Scrap Iron Mile High of Colorado (photo below) went 7-1 overall, losing only in the first championship game 14-13. In the second thrilling title game, it edged D'Amore Law of Washington 27-26. Junkies/A-1 Pavement Marking 55s of California finished third in the 16-team bracket, which was the tournament's second-largest.



Men's 60+ Major: Top-seeded California Energy edged second-seeded Xcelerated Softball of California 20-19 for the championship of the nine-team division. Xcelerated had won four elimination games in a row. Precision/Wolfpack of Washington placed third in the nine-team division.

Men's 60+ AAA: Second-seeded Tri-State Kings of Alaska (photo below) lost the winner's finale but rebounded to double dip Winn/Kia of California 19-18 and 20-13 to win the six-team division. Mountain Men 60 of Utah placed third.

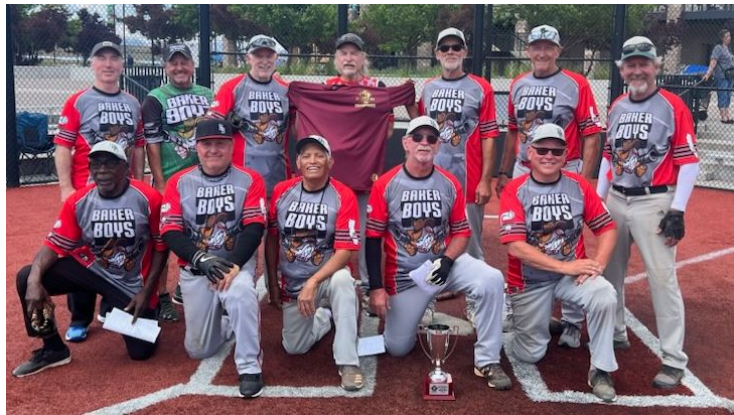


Men's 60+ AA: Top-seeded Mike's Bar & Grill of Washington (photo below) defeated the Tri City Legends of Washington 21-19 in the championship game of the three-team division. Fresno Mayhem of California took third.



Men's 65+ Major Plus: In a best-of-three format, Cal Energy capped a 5-0 tournament by defeating Texas Crush Sixty Fives 25-21 and 34-20 for the title.

Men's 65+ AAA: The fourth-seeded Baker Boyz of California (photo below) went 6-0 overall, including a 14-1 championship game victory over Hustlers of California. Team Alaska finished third in the 11-team division.



Men's 65+ AA: Scrap Iron 65s Rockies of Colorado (photo below) capped a 6-0 tournament with a 20-10 victory over the Classics 65 of Utah in the title game. East/West Aircraft 65s of Idaho finished third in the four-team bracket.



Men's 65/70+ Platinum: Sixth-seeded New Dawn Awning of California, a 65+ Major team, knocked off the first, second and third seeds enroute to winning the title with a 19-14 victory over the Oregon Crabs 65. The Crabs won five elimination games to reach the championship game. Timberworks/Suncoast of California finished third in the nine-team bracket.

Men's 70+ Major: The top-seeded Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia, Canada, (photo below) lost the first title game 16-10 but dominated the second 22-7 to win the eight-team division. Animals 70s of California took second. Ryan's Way of Utah won three elimination games to finish third.



Men's 70+ AAA: Top-seeded No Dice/Costa Rica of California lost the first title game 24-13 but won the second 26-10 over Scrap Iron 5280' of Colorado. Cut Loose 70s of California won four elimination games to finish third in the nine-team division.

Men's 70+ AA: The second-seeded Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado went 5-1 overall and defeated East-West Aircraft Sales of Idaho 19-8 for the championship. Spikes of Washington finished third in the four-team division.

Men's 75+ Platinum: Maverick Construction 75s of Texas (photo below) won the 75+ Major TOC berth when it captured the four-team division with a 20-18 championship victory over Omen 75 of California. Omen earned the 75+ Major Plus TOC berth. Valley Fog of California finished third in the four-team bracket.



Men's 75+ AAA: Second-seeded Last Call 75 of Nevada (photo below) double dipped Please Don't Bug Me of California 24-12 and 15-8. Solano Senior Enforcers of California finished third in the six-team division.

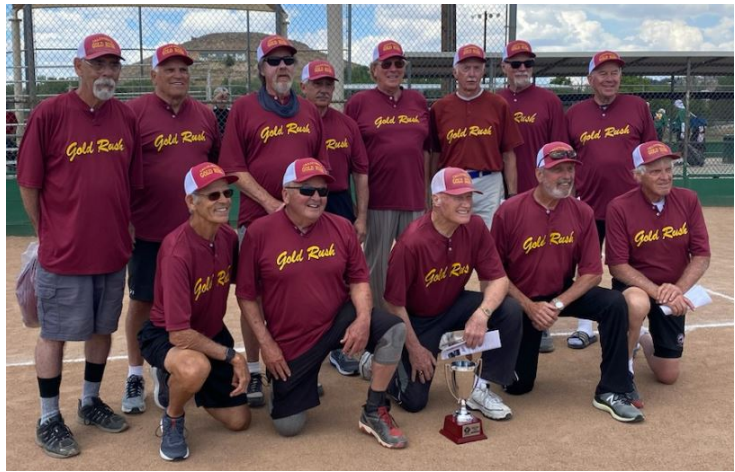


Men's 75+ AA: In a best-of-three format, the Mustangs of California (photo below) swept the California Oaks 14-8 and 19-11.



Men's 80/85+ Major Plus: Top-seeded San Francisco Seals, an 80+ Major Plus team, won the division after second place Top Gun Blue Angels 85 forfeited. General Equipment of Oregon finished third in the three-team division.

Men's 80/85+ AAA: Gold Rush of California (photo below) dominated every game as it went 6-0 playing a seven-team, round-robin format. It won 19-4, 16-2, 17-5, 19-7, 19-10, and 18-3. The second-place team, Scrap Iron 80s, and third-place team, Minnesota Masters, both finished 4-2.



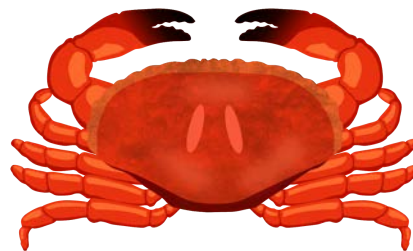
5 Teams Go Undefeated in the 2023 Don Brooks/Crabtown Classic



By Nic Francois
Softball News Report

GLEN BURNIE, MD – 60 teams representing six Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states battled it out in the annual 2023 Don Brooks/Crabtown Classic, June 1-4. Twenty-four teams hailed from the host state of Maryland.

Crabbing was one of the original industries of the region and town of Glen Burnie, giving the name Crabtown to the tournament. In 2021, Tournament Director Tim McElroy added Director Don Brooks to the title. This was to honor the SSUSA Hall of Fame National Director and player who was also the original director of the Crabtown Classic.



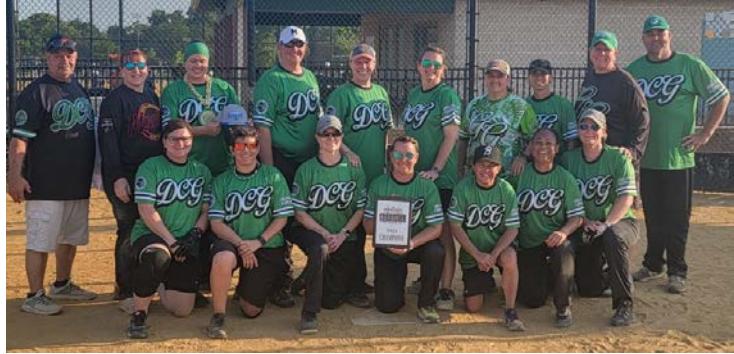
Brooks continues to direct tournaments with SSUSA and serves on the organization's Rules Committee.

Men's 65-85+ divisions started the tournament, playing on Thursday and Friday, followed by Men's 55-60+ division Friday and Saturday, and Men's 40-50+ and all Women's division Saturday and Sunday.

"We should have seen it coming when the first game of the tournament went nine innings, but two words sum up the week - Competitive Balance," according to Tim McElroy. "It's only June but the teams in the east are heating up. I look forward to watching them bring their own brand of heat to Las Vegas in the fall."

Results:

Women's 40/50+ Gold: First-seeded, 40+ Major DCG/Golden Girls (MD) successfully double dipped Vintage (NJ), also 40+ Major, after initially losing their first bracket game, sending Golden Girls to the elimination bracket. Vintage finished as the finalists and Unfazed (VA), a 50+ Major team, took third.



Men's 40+ Platinum: This was the tournament's largest division, with 11 Major teams and one Major Plus team. Certified Ground Breakers (MD) failed to double dip New Holland Legion (PA - [photo below](#)) in the IF game, losing 23-20. New Holland was the division champion with Ground Breakers finalists and Shin Biscuits/Potomac Sports (MD) took third.

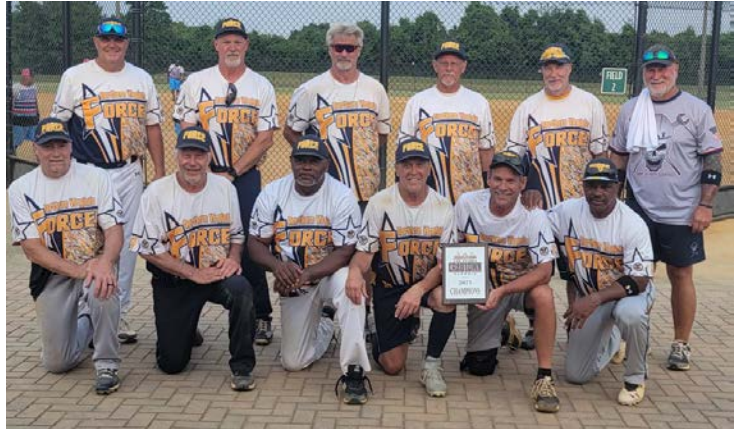


Men's 40+ AAA: First-seeded Barkley Heating & Air/O.P.P. (DE) went undefeated in the seeding and bracket games to claim the top spot. Gigantes O.C. 40s (MD) work their way through the elimination bracket for second place as seventh-seeded Autism Pride (MD) placed third.

Men's 50+ AAA: The first-seeded team in this bracket, OTC/SMIRES (NJ), also went undefeated in their seeding and bracket games, winning 26-19 in the championship game. Arooga's/MVP (PA) finished as finalists and Maryland Classics 50s finished third.

Men's 50/55+ Major: This mixed division had their first-seeded team, Olympian Athletic 55s (PA), go undefeated in the seeding and bracket games to claim first. High Street 55s (MD) took second place and Smash it Sports/Bob Johnson Chevrolet (NY), a 50s team, took third.

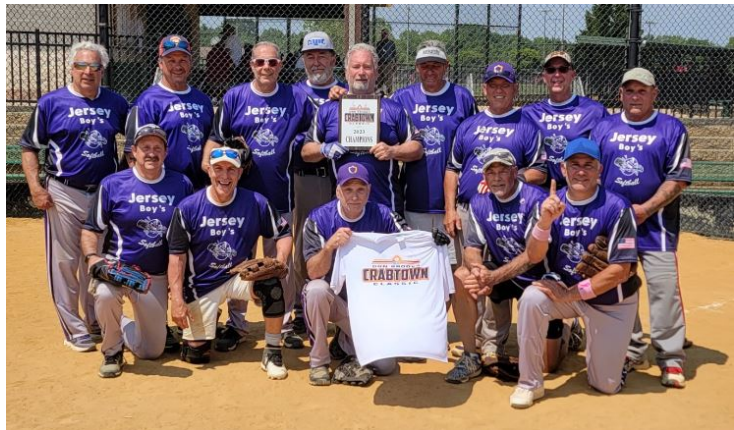
Men's 55/60+ Gold: Third-seeded Nova Force (VA - [photo below](#)), a 60+ AAA team, went 1-1 for seeding games but was undefeated in the bracket to become the champs. Second-seeded Monocacy Brewing Company (MD), also a 60+ AAA team, worked through the elimination bracket to place second. Olympian Athletics 60s (PA), a Major rated team, was first-seeded and finished third.



Men's 65+ Major: In this three-team bracket, Omega IT Services LLC (MD - [photo below](#)) successfully double dipped the first-seeded Promotion/Phoenix Tube (NJ), 10-9 in the championships game and 11-2 in the IF game. High Street Bucs 65s (MD) finished third.



Men's 65+ Silver: This mixed division had five AAA teams and one AA team. Jersey Boys ([photo below](#)), an AAA team, went undefeated in the seeding and bracket games while The Starboard (DE), another AAA team, finished as the finalists. Spring Ford 65+ (PA), also an AAA team, placed third out of the 6 teams.

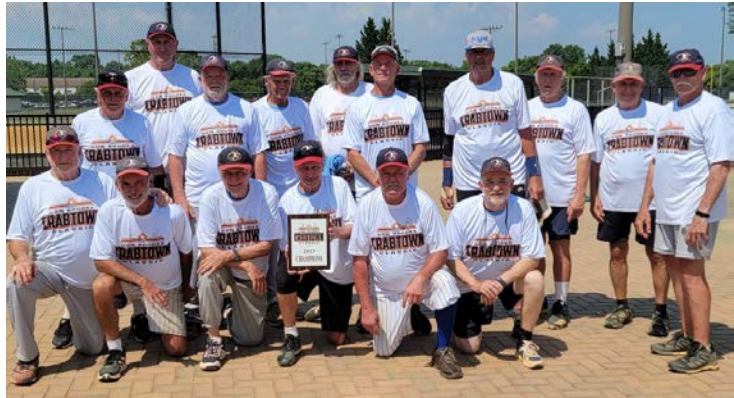


Men's 70+ AAA: This division played a unique format of three seeding games and single elimination. Third-seeded JAG-ONE/Jersey Masters Red ([photo below](#)) lost two of their seeding games but won the division, including a tight championship game 7-5

against finalists, Northern Virginia Force 70. Roc City 70s (NY) lost all their seeding games and first bracket game but won the third-place game 20-10.



Men's 75+ Gold: This division also played three seeding games with single elimination. The third-seeded team, Northern Virginia Force 75 (Major - [photo below](#)), won the division after losing two seeding games but winning a tight championship game, 19-18, against Syracuse Cyclones (AAA). The two teams tasked to play the third-place game both forfeited, therefore there is no third or fourth place teams in this four-team division.



Good Weather, Close Games Dominate the 2023 Heart of Texas

*By Nic Francois
Softball News Report*

WACO, Tex. – While the second and final session of Rock 'N Reno raged on, 25 teams competed against each other in the 2023 annual qualifier, the Heart of Texas, June 1-4.

All the teams were from the Lone Star State except for one from Oklahoma City, the OKC Angels, 60 AA.

Texas State Director Keith Parker ran the two-session tournament, comprised of Men's 50s through 80s divisions. "Great tournament in Waco this past weekend. Lots of competition, [the] weather was beautiful and we had no injuries, which is always a blessing," Parker said.

Results:

Men's 50+ Silver: Fourth-seeded out of six teams, Team Creed (AAA - [photo below](#)), successfully double dipped CTX Hammer 50 (AAA), 31-22 in the championship game and 22-8 in the IF game. 50 GZ, also an AAA team, worked their way through the elimination bracket to finish third.



Men's 55/60+ Gold: This small four-team division has two champions, as Texas Rush 55+ AAA and Texas Heat 60+ Major ([photo below](#)) both advanced to the championship game. No championship game was played as the teams won their respective division titles. Texas Silverbacks 55+ AAA came in third.



Men's 60/65+ Silver: First-seeded Tex/Ark Legends, a 65 AAA team, forfeited in the third inning of the championship game, giving first place to Bomb City Buzzards (60+ AA - [photo below](#)). Tex/Ark Legends took the finalist position and OKC Angels (OK), a 60+ AA team, finished third.



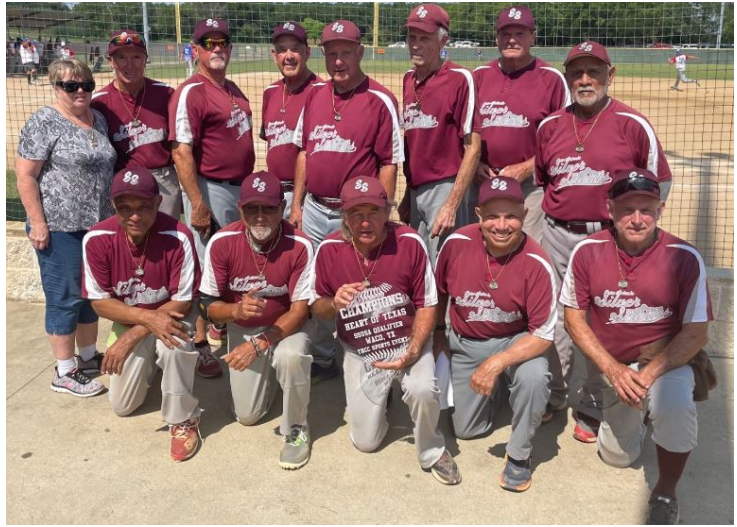
Men's 65+ AA: This division was the smallest in the tournament, with only two teams, and mixed seeding with 70+ AAA teams. Both Robson Ranch Texans ([photo below](#)) and Triple 2 won one seeding game out of three. Robson Ranch Texans won both bracket games, 16-15 and 23-7, for the title.



Men's 70+ AAA: After mixed seeding games with the 65+ AA division, second-seeded Texas Rattlers (photo below) won the two bracket games in a row, 10-8 and 19-16 respectively, to become the champions. First-seeded Robson Ranch Texans 70s finished second as Relentless 70s finished last.



Men's 75+ AAA: This three-team division had mixed seeding games with the 75/80+ Silver teams. San Antonio Silver Streaks (photo below) went undefeated in the seeding games and bracket to finish first. Texas Raiders finished second, losing the championship game 7-15, and Texas Legends finished last.



Men's 75/80+ Silver: This division also had mixed seeding games with the 75+ AA division. San Antonio Legends, a 75+ AA team, won the championship game, 17-7, against finalists, Texas Knight Riders, another 75+ AA team. San Antonio 80s, an AAA team, came in third.

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