



Senior Softball News Goes Digital

SACRAMENTO – The oldest and largest senior softball newspaper, Senior Softball News, begins publishing online in this edition. There will be a limited print run for those players without access to the internet, or those who would like to purchase a paper copy

of the newspaper.

“This change reflects the reality of our times: The great majority of our players and managers get their information via the internet,” said Terry Hennessy, editor of Senior Softball News. “We will be sending an email with a link to the newspaper to

players and managers, posting it for free download on our website, and making it available for those who would like to purchase a paper copy.”

The first edition of Senior Softball News was published in 1987 and it became the dominant source of news in the sport by the mid-1990s.

Senior Softball News, which has a circulation of 30,000, is sent to all registered players and managers, sponsors and officials in the 70-plus cities in which Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) holds tournaments.

SSUSA launched an electronic Newsletter last year that comes out every three weeks, **Please See Page 10**



TOC: The Champion of Tournaments

TOC Honors Winners of Top Championships

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

POLK COUNTY, FLA. – Winners of the 20 major SSUSA Championships of 2015 flocked here in February 2016 to compete in the crown jewel of the sport:

Please See Page 14

Photo by Jack Eberhard

Tips to Break In Your Glove

Bake It, Shake It, Run It Over?

By Anthony Ramos
Softball Staff Writer

While different experts have their own pet methods for breaking in new gloves, they ALL agree: Do not abuse the leather!

The “Do Not List” includes soaking gloves

in motor oil, spraying, steaming, misting, baking in an oven, running over it with your car or sticking it in the microwave.

For whatever reason, players often believe breaking in gloves

Please See Page 7



Break your glove in as naturally as possible.

Oil thoroughly, working it in to the leather.

Place a ball in the pocket of the glove and tie with shoe laces to help form the pocket while it rests.

Get out there and play with it.

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News Briefing

CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

From Charlie Brown to Cathy's Clown

I hear players spout out grand exclamations that apparently should be universally accepted as gospel truth:

"This game is supposed to be fun!"

"Tournament ball is the test of a man's character."

"Fun is had in direct proportion to winning."

"Winning doesn't matter, it's how you play the game."

"Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

"We should stop whining and just be glad to be alive and playing this great game at our age."

And on it goes. So who is right? The proclamations and platitudes are all over the philosophical map.

Truth be known, we all play this game for different reasons and needs. We also have different expectations for what the game of softball should bring to our lives. By understanding this, we can remove an enormous amount of vexation, frustration, and irritation toward our fellow players.

You see the guy who arrives all frowning and scowling, playing the game like he is fighting Somali pirates holding his wife captive. He might be just proving something to himself, maybe that

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Don Stratton's Lasting Legacy

An Appreciation
by Terry Hennessy

BARTOW, FLA – Don Stratton, 68, chief executive officer of the Independent Sports Association died of a heart attack here, in his home town, on March 24.

Don Stratton's life filled the town he loved and the sport to which he dedicated much of his life. He was a key partner in establishing major events with Senior Softball-USA and was an avid ambassador of the sport internationally.

The details of his accomplishments both for his town and his sport are extensive indeed.

After graduating from Bartow High School in 1966,



Don Stratton

where Don played baseball and football, he went to Vietnam, where he served his country in the Air Force, and then returned to Bartow and dove back into sports.

Don was the coach and/or president of Bartow Youth Football for 17 years, coached high school basketball, Dixie

Baseball, coached the Bartow Mighty Mites football team, spent 12 years helping direct the Bartow recreation advisory board, and was the radio voice of Bartow High football and basketball games for more than 20 years.

In a 2007 interview with The Ledger newspaper, Don explained why he thought sports were so important to the young: "The best times in a person's life is when they are young and playing sports. They just don't realize it until it is over. I think now a person pushes a kid too much to concentrate on one sport. I think kids should do it all."

But Don's intelligence, in-

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Don't Forget About Dividends

By Jack Sirard

In such turbulent times in the stock market with fluctuation of hundreds of points on any given day, the big numbers can be downright confusing.

That's why I like to concentrate on the much smaller numbers and in this case I mean the dividends that corporations pay. To me dividends usually tell a compelling story about a company's financial health and its long-term outlook.

And while company's paying dividends can be put in the boring side of the ledger in comparison to the latest high-

flying internet stock, boring can add a lot of stability to your portfolio, particularly if you're at or near retirement age.

For example, take a company like Procter & Gamble Co.

For the record, it's a company that I don't have any money currently invested in, but one that I think has both a solid long-term track record and a viable future. What's more it's a great company to show investors the value of dividend investing.

When you take a close look at Procter & Gamble, there's something to love for almost everyone in the United States.

Consider, for example, its wide array of consumer products: Most people could quickly identify Tide soap and Crest toothpaste as well as Gillette and Pampers, but there's also such well-known brand names as Bounty, Braun, Charmin, Downey, Head and Shoulders, Luvs, Old Spice, Oral B, Tampax and Vicks just to name a few. With more than 65 brands, the company is well positioned to sell products worldwide for decades to come.

The company has a pretty straight forward approach to business. It sees a big potential

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Benefits of Bat Compression Testing

By Art Eversole

In our senior softball game, we don't require onsite bat testing at tournaments as is the case of many USSSA and ASA tourneys. Our senior bats are tested and certified by an independent third party using a scientific method that is not to exceed a 1.21 BPF. When a bat is approved through this testing process only then will the bat be stamped with the official SSUSA certification logo.

Why then would seniors even be interested in bat barrel compression testing? Compression testing of senior bats can tell you a lot about the current performance and life expectancy of your favorite stick. Our hitting club in the Seattle area (SEATAC Hitting) has access to a bat compression tester on a frequent basis for our membership.

Typically only a team's sponsor, a league, or a hitting club with a high membership will spend the money to make the pricey purchase for a tester. We use a G4 SSL tester that came with a sticker price of \$850 for the unit.

The intended purpose of a bat tester is to establish how much a bat barrel compresses for the game of softball or baseball. There is a direct relationship between the bat barrel compression readings to the bat's performance. The lower the compression reading the better the bat will perform or the more the bat barrel with trampoline creating greater ball exit speed.

Understand that USSSA and ASA have compression standards that disallow bats for use in tournaments and league play if they exceed their established standards. I believe that for USSSA bat testing they can't go below the 220lbs minimum; as for ASA it might be at 250lbs.

Organization and association standards can vary from year to year. We seniors are fortunate to be able to use bats with compression readings lower than those of USSSA and ASA thereby adding a bit more energy to our hits.

The bat compression tester is completely portable and does not require power. Our onsite expert in SEATAC is Brett Kreuger or as his teammates call him



Bat tester operation detailed below.

Kreugs. He is a member of the powerful Doerflinger/Demarini 50's Major-Plus ball-club from Olympia, Wash. Kreuger has the experience and knowhow to test our bats safely and accurately. Note that there is a USSSA tester model and also an ASA model; we use the USSSA version.

From Kreugs' experience in the testing of senior bats has shown that a senior bat still in the wrapper typically start out between 230lbs to 250lbs compression on average (USSSA and ASA bats are well over the 300lbs marker in the wrapper).

As more swings are placed on a senior bat the compression readings go down slowly and until they reach approximately the 175lbs value and is then considered to be game ready. Senior bat readings that test near the 150lbs mark are considered to be at the end of their useful life and could crack with the next contact.

Bats that test out at extremely low values like 115lbs-120lbs are kaput. With these low readings you may find either a visible break on the exterior shell or that an internal layer has been compromised, making the bat useless.

Bat tester operation:

- First insert your bat head through the 2.5" diameter hole in the frame until the end of the barrel touches the refer-

ence rod.

- Next place the cylindrical dowel under the handle of the bat to make it so the bat is level with the machine for more accurate testing.
- By rotating the instrument dial apply a preload that brings the indicator dial so it's calibrated @ zero.
- Make sure the cam lever is in the full down/vertical position. It's necessary to test the bat in at least two or more barrel locations to see if the bat is breaking in evenly. As we all know it's paramount to rotate the bat when taking bp to insure an even break in around the circumference of the bat barrel.
- Lastly, compress the barrel by pulling the cam lever to the up/horizontal position until the lever locks in place and read the dial (see pics).

Knowing your bat's current trampoline/compression reading will help you to know when to let a teammate take a few swings or not with your prized possession. "I'm sorry Bob, but my bat just tested out at its maximum performance reading and is going into my bat bag as game only use."

Here's the link to the G4 SSL bat tester machines: <http://www.barrelcompression.com/purchase.html>.



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Stratton: Led ISA for a Decade; A Legend in Florida

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novation and love of the game pushed him far from beyond the borders of his beloved town.

In his more almost 30 years with ISA, Don moved from area director, to Florida state director, to national director and in 2007 was named chief executive officer in 2007. ISA, one of the "Big Four" all-age group softball associations, sanctions more than 25,000 teams throughout America.

"Don Stratton was one of the most unique, innovative, energetic and caring individuals that I have ever met," said Bill Ruth, ISA president.

"Whenever a problem arose, whether it be in business, softball or personal, Don provided and implemented the solution! Don always 'had your back'. He was truly one of a kind and we all will miss him greatly," said Ruth.

"Key Lime pie, Cherry Pocket and deep fried dill pickles, gator strips -- Florida will never be the same."

Stratton's innovative thinking and drive was recognized by ISA in 2001, when he became the first director elected into the ISA Hall of Fame.



Don Stratton, 2nd from left, first row, managed a US team in Ireland.

Internationally, Don represented ISA on SSUSA International Softball Tours to Cuba, Mexico, Ireland and England. Don shared these adventures with his wife of 46 years, Mary.

Don managed international teams, helped collect equipment for softball clubs in those countries, and acted as an ambassador not only for the sport, but for his country.

On the trip to Cuba, the charter airline would only take cash to pay for all of the extra equipment Senior Softball was bringing to distribute to Cuban teams. The charge was almost \$1,000. Fortunately Don was carrying cash proceeds from one of his recent tournaments and collected the rest of the U.S. dollars

from U.S. team players so we could get the equipment to the players who badly needed it in Cuba.

Don was also adventurous. On another trip into Mexico from Brownsville, Texas, we were told we had to rent a Mexican bus for the U.S. team members and their wives because banditos were hijacking American buses. The organizer thought we might cancel the trip. Don looked at

me, shrugged, smiled and we decided the trip was on.

Domestically, he was an integral part of the planning process for the SSUSA Tournament of Champions—which has evolved into the jewel of the sport—as well as the SSUSA Winter Nationals—one of the largest senior tournaments east of the Mississippi River—and several other major SSUSA tournaments.

Don Stratton had the innovation and energy needed to constantly improve, the compassion needed to lead and enough humor to make you smile and shake your head.

Don said it simply in his 2007 interview with The Ledger: "I enjoy the people in sports."

The thousands of people in sports who have been touched by Don Stratton will miss him greatly.

Terry Hennessy is SSUSA's chief executive officer.

Carl: Softball's Many Faces

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he didn't deserve to ride the bench back in high school football where, if justice had been done, he'd have attracted a wife that the Somali's didn't want to give back.

A guy shows up smiling and shaking hands, asking about the best eating establishments and remembering how many grandkids you have. Could be that softball is his fellowship, like a church, or maybe in his retirement he no longer feels needed, or maybe he never got over the birthday party he had in grade school where nobody came.

Some players may be

established athletes and just need the exhilaration. Guys can be henpecked and needing validation as a man. Others might be in such a boring rut that Wal-Mart is the highlight of their week, so softball is liberating. A few might have been bullied as kids, others might have been the bullies, some are just undoubtedly full of bull.

Each of us sees the game through his own unique prism and you can bet that we are all feeling different emotions and fulfillments. For senior softball to be collectively enjoyed, it would behoove us to appreciate the individuality.



Don Stratton enjoyed his family; here with his grandson and wife Mary



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Dividends: Look for Long History

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in life's little moments such as brushing teeth, washing hair, showering, shaving, caring for the baby, cleaning the house and doing the dishes and laundry.

In other words, it makes something that each and every one of us needs every day and with such a vast brand portfolio, the company certainly enjoys a competitive advantage and pricing power over rivals.

But let's talk about its ability to return money to its shareholders, who no doubt are some of its most loyal consumers.

When it comes to dividend income, Procter & Gamble is almost as predictable as sunrises and sunsets.

The stock (ticker symbol PG) sells for a smidge more than \$80 a share and pays a dividend of \$2.68 a share each year or (67 cents a share each quarter) giving it a yield of 3.29 percent.

What's more, the company has increased its dividend each year for the past 59 consecutive years, making it one of the very few to do so. That means that despite the many recessions and market slumps, this company has continued to not only return capital to its shareholders, but to give more and more back year after year.

With all that going for the company, don't think that there is no risk involved. In fact, like any stock there is always risk. And it's worth noting that in recent years, PG has seen its sales growth slow due to such things as foreign currency transactions and the fact that it has significantly reduced its brands by assets sales. In addition, profits have declined somewhat

over the last two years and the recent dividend increase was the smallest on record.

But someone on Wall Street must like the stock as it's trading near its high water mark for the year and its cost cutting is expected to increase future profits.

Investors also need to know that just because a company offers what appears to be a generous dividend, you can't always depend on it. For instance, company WXYZ might have just reported some near fatal news and its stock took a hellacious beating of 40 or 50 points or more. The smart money would indicate that a sharp dividend cut – or omission – is just around the corner.

As a result, you have to do your homework. You just can't buy stocks based solely on the

dividend yield.

So where do you begin to look?

One good starting place to find companies that have steadily increased their dividends over the years is dividend.com which maintains a listing of what it terms dividend aristocrats. There you'll see a list of many other companies that have increased their dividends over the last 25 years or more. Some of them are well known names such as 3M and Coca-Cola as well as others such as American States Water and Dover Corp.

With a little study, I'm sure you will find a few stocks there that could help you supplement your retirement income.

Jack Sirard is a retired nationally syndicated investment columnist and senior writer for Senior Softball USA.

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Glove: Experts Say Break it in Naturally

Continued from Page 1

follows the old axiom “spare the rod, ruin the child.” Only, in this case, it’s “beat the glove until it’s in shape.”

Of course, this is all done with love.

The joy of every ball player can be seen in the satisfaction of breaking in that brand new glove. All players have their own specific ways to break in their glove that they likely learned from a family member or teammate, and like with all things in life, there are the correct ways and the incorrect ways to accomplish a task.

“There are many suggested ways to break in a glove and it’s hard to know

what is correct or not and most of them are not the proper way to break in a glove,” said Chip Sivak, Director of Sales and Marketing for Nokona, one of the premier glove manufacturers in the United States.

Sivak recommends breaking in your glove as naturally as possible. Such techniques as oiling the glove, thoroughly working it in, and getting out there and playing with it. When done, placing a ball in the pocket of the glove and tying with shoe laces to help form a pocket while in rest is recommended. “Spraying, steaming, misting, soaking in water, letting sit in direct sunlight for hours,

baking or cooking in a microwave are definitely part of the ‘DON’T category,” concluded Sivak.

Glove guru Shigeaki Aso, the master glove designer for Wilson Sporting Goods, the official glove of Major League Baseball, has broken in gloves for numerous MLB stars such as C.J. Wilson, Brandon Philips, David Wright, and Hanley Ramirez. A short YouTube video, Glove Guru Aso: How to Break In a Baseball Glove, demonstrates Aso’s techniques in the glove break-in process.

Aso’s process includes pouring a cup of hot water (between 150-160 degrees) on the glove to soften the leather, using a mallet to pound the glove in order to develop breaking points to help create a pocket, as well as stretching and squeezing the glove. There are a number of YouTube videos available online that show Aso breaking in gloves that can be very helpful in your glove break-in journey.

Fran Fleet, who runs a glove repair shop in Cotati CA, has seen it all when it comes to glove break-ins that have gone wrong. From gloves that have been soaked in motor oil, which makes the leather pliable, heavy and floppy, to gloves that have been covered with linseed oil, which causes the leather to become brittle and crack. “I’ve re-laced many gloves in my shop that have had bacon-crisp laces as a result of being oiled and put in the oven,” says Fleet on her website. “This is how food is cooked, not how to treat leather designed and manufactured to function as a tool.”

“Some players think that pummeling a new glove is the way to a quick break,” continued Fleet. “Yes, it is. It is basically the same as using the glove for many games, only much rougher. I believe the glove will be better served, and will serve better, if this extra abuse is avoided. If you just catch balls to form the glove, you are training the glove and getting your timing down at the same time. Better for you. Better for the glove.”

With all of the crazy schemes out there to break in a glove, nothing seems to beat a good old fashioned game of catch.

ISA Kicks off Season With Winter Nationals

Softball News Report

POLK COUNTY, FLA. - Twenty teams competed across seven divisions in the 2016 ISA Winter National on March 12-13 at the Southwest Softball Complex to start off the first Tournament of Champions (TOC) qualifier of 2016.

Teams who qualified for the TOC were Team

1 Sports/Miken (Men’s 50 Platinum), Public Enemy (Men’s 50/55 Gold),



Team Florida (Men’s 65 Major-Plus), AAG Mustangs (Men’s 60/65 Gold), Florida Mustangs (Men’s 65AAA), Venom (Men’s 70 Major-Plus) and Chadwell Supply (Men’s 70/75AAA).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

ISA Winter National All Tourney Players Named

2016 ISA Winter Nationals All Tournament Players:

Men’s 50 Platinum: **Team 1 Sports/Miken** – JC Bautista, Donnie Burke, Junior Guterrez, Ned Johnston, Bob O’Brien; **Blast** – Jack Butler, Robert Elling, John Heffelfinger, John Miles

Men’s 50/55 Gold: **Public Enemy** – Scott Bowden, Mark Burnside, Gary Demeyer, Lorenzo Taylor, Tony White; **CKM Wealth Management** – Roger Bard, Dale Franklin, Nick Gennaro, Curt Glassman

Men’s 60AAA: **AAG Mustangs** – Dean Ayscue, Radley Pcholinski, Ron Pepin, Dave Shipley, Dave Thompson

Men’s 65AAA: **Florida Mustangs** – Don Bobish, Bill Gaffney, Tommy Hamilton,

Herbie Lester, Ron Salyer; **MCC Insurance 65’s** – Ezzard Bryant, Ron Champagne, Bob Darrah, Steve Lambert

Men’s 65 Platinum: **Beef O’Brady’s Southern Trace** – Terry Hovseth, John Rebarbardo, Tasso Rumeliotis, Darrel Smith; **Red Heat** – Rich Murray, Roy Oke, Puis Specht

Men’s 70 Major-Plus: **Venom 70’s** – Mike Markum, Vince Melograno, Terry O’Donnell, Larry Sample, Clyde Smith; **TB Financial** – Roy Hern, Ralph Hollis, Carter Honkonen, Linwood Manning

Men’s 70/75AAA: **Chadwell Supply** – David Burget, Bob Darrah, Sam Ferguson, Paul Gawel, Robert Williams; **Buffalo Wild Wings** – Rick Krooss, Wayne Mundy, Jim Scala, Don Schroeder



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Opinions & Letters

Entering the Digital Age

For hundreds of years, news has been circulated on paper. Then, in the early part of the last century, it began coming over radio waves and in the middle of the last century, over the airwaves of television.

Still, through the age of radio and the age of television, newspapers were the king of news, with massive circulations throughout America – and the rest of the world.

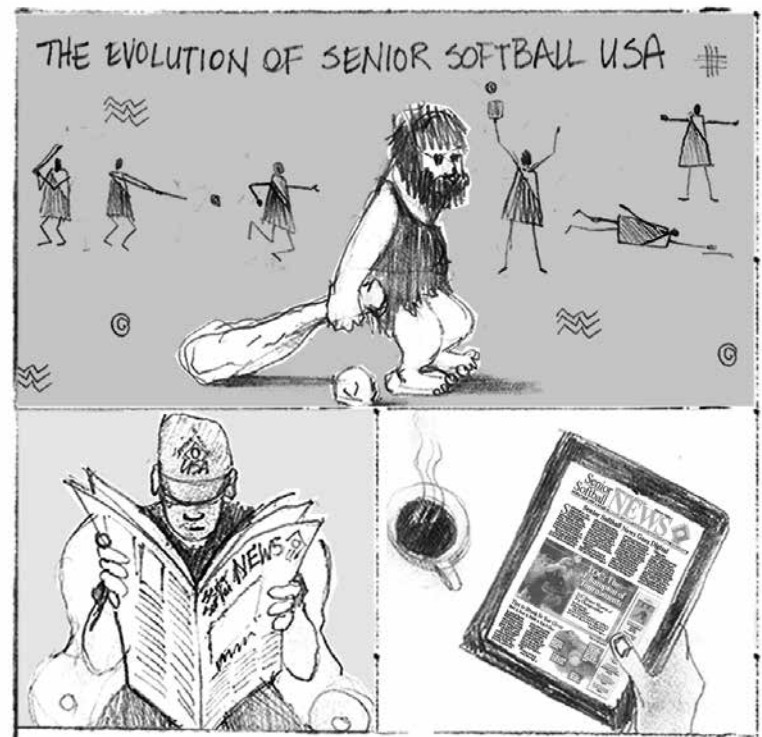
Then along came the internet, hand-held personal devices and e-mail – and there was a fundamental information revolution. Over the past decade, people of all ages have come to rely on the internet for their communication.

SSUSA was a pioneer in internet communication. Senior Softball USA launched its website two decades ago, in 1995, and it has evolved into one of our most important communication tools. Last year, we launched the electronic Senior Softball Newsletter, which comes out every three weeks and allows us to cover tournaments, obituaries, and breaking news within the sport in a much more timely fashion.

And now as we undertake a new era, Senior Softball USA will be shifting to an all-electronic presentation. Or at least that's how most of you will receive your in-depth news that only Senior Softball USA can provide.

That does not mean that Senior Softball News, the largest and oldest senior softball newspaper, will cease to exist – we feel the newspaper has an important place in the sport.

Senior Softball News will continue to publish popular columns, editorials, stories on trends in the sports, as well



Sue Ballenger

as short wrap-ups of tournaments and lists of All Tournament players. Senior Softball News will come out in the Spring, Fall and Winter.

We will also be printing a limited edition on paper for those who wish to read the news on paper and SSUSA will continue publishing a paper edition of the Annual Tournament Guide and mail it to players and managers.

The bottom line is that we feel this change will give our players, managers, sponsors and supporters information in a way that will be easy to receive and easy to read.

Terry Hennessy - Editor

Advances in Cancer Detection with Dogs

Specialized training dogs are now taking center stage in the battle to win the war on cancer. This bright new technique of training dogs to detect cancer at its earliest stages has been a passion for Dina Zaphiris, founder and chief executive officer of In-Situ Foundation. She has been training dogs for 23 years.

She has specialized train-

CAN-Sirs CORNER

By Pete Davignon

ing dogs in medical scent detection, missing persons' detection as well as in searching for bombs and narcotics.

A dog's sense of smell is 100,000 times more acute than humans and they can

provide a low-cost method of screening for cancer. The success of her program would be a major addition to the diagnostic approach to detecting cancer. Training and testing of her dogs has resulted in a 98 percent positive identification of cancer cells in clinical trials. It takes six to eight months to train and certify a cancer detection dog. Dogs

do not sniff an actual person but samples such as breath, plasma, urine and saliva.

Dina has been working with major universities and cancer centers to develop the first medical protocol for the selection, training, and handling of medical scent dogs. Currently, only a certified doctor can use the protocol and provisions have not been

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CAN-Sirs: Dogs Detect Other Diseases Too

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developed for clinical cancer detection by dogs. At present, her dogs can detect breast cancer, prostate cancer and rectal cancer. Training is underway to detect other cancers. She is in the process of training dogs to detect other diseases and medical conditions that can be detected by smell. Her successes have drawn the attention and inquiries of the worldwide medical community.

Zaphiris has her training facilities in Chico, Calif. InSitu has an informative website that everyone should take the time to go to for interesting and educational details on the types of dogs used, the methods of training, and the future of canine cancer detection.

You can find out more about the cancer detecting dogs, and consider making a donation to her cancer detection program by contacting: Dina Zaphiris InSitu Foundation P.O. Box 3040 Chico, CA 95927 Email: info@dogsdetectcancer.org

I was fortunate to have met Dina at a cancer support group at the Enloe Cancer Center in Chico. In our constant search for ways to promote cancer awareness and prevention, we hope to work with Dina promoting her work. She is working with her husband to fulfill a dream by training dogs for all types of detection in the medical field.

Dina is available for speaking engagements. Her talks are professional, interesting, and easy to understand. If you have an organization that would like to have her visit, contact her at her email.

We senior softball players are now back on the field. During this past year, several senior softball players have died and more have been diagnosed with cancer. When having to deal with cancer, comradery is important and will help with recovery. CAN-Sirs wishes to thank all our supporters for their kindness and financial assistance to our program.

This year Senior Softball USA and CAN-Sirs have joined together to hold the CAL Cup tournament and the CAN-Sirs benefit tournament as one event on May 10-15 in Sacramento and Elk Grove. (See story on this page.)

Pete Davignon, Founder, President CAN-Sirs, Inc. CAN-Sirs.org

CAN-Sirs/SSUSA Combine in NorCal

Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO / ELK GROVE / LINCOLN – The second annual Northern California State Championships held May 10-15 was once again a success with 55 teams competing across 15 divisions. This year's tournament was held in conjunction with CAN-Sirs and \$50 from each team's entry fee went towards the organization that is dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention for senior softball players. Through their \$50 entry fee, teams donated \$2,750 to CAN-Sirs.

The teams that claimed a TOC invitation by winning their respective division were Dudley/Prestige (40 Major-Plus), SofaKing Softball/Elite (40 Major), JU Aftershock (50/55 Major-Plus), Nor Cal Warriors (50 Major), Sacramento Flash (50AAA), California Energy (55/60 Platinum), Rebellion (55AAA), TRI-C-



Machine (60 Major), Viejitos (60AAA), Omen 65 (65 Major-Plus), Old Dawgs 65 (65 Major), California Wrecking Crew (65/70 Gold), Game On (70 Silver), State Roofing Systems (75 Major) and Sacramento Gold 80's (75/80 Gold).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

CAN-Sirs/SSUSA Northern California Championships All Tourney Players Named

2016 SSUSA/CAN-Sirs NorCal Championships All Tournament Players:

Men's 50/55 Major-Plus: **MTC 55:** Dan Arevelos, Scott Becker, Dwayne Brekke, Ron Webb;

Men's 50 Major: **Nor Cal Warriors:** Ken Block, Robert Gibbs, Tom Langenhorst, Anthony Maze, Brad White; **Twelve Gauge:** Doug Dalton, Craig Nourie, Robert Overholt

Men's 50AAA: **Sacramento Flash:** Troy Baker Jr., Bill Hinegardner, Nick Martin, Curtis Rodgers, Tony Silva

Men's 55AAA: **Rebellion:** Bill Conwell, Darrell Heim, Harold Holmes, George Lamb, Jim Liston; **Senior Bend Elks:** Mike Koepf, Ray O'Rear, Neil Schafer, Greg Shaddix

Men's 55/60 Platinum: **California Energy:** Anthony Hinojosa, Jack Lemons, Stanton Nichols, Russ Reisinger, Tony Rocha; **Old Dawgs:** Rick Cady, Chris Dayak, Steve Grimm

Men's 60 Major: **TRI-C-Machine:** Gary Holmes, Emilio LeBato, Jose Moreno, Roger Sanders, Scott Wilson

Men's 60AAA: **Viejitos:** Dan Bailey, John Castro, Roderick Faulk, Carmel Mejia, Lamont Thompson; **Not Youngins:** Ron Cromwell, Dennis Garrett, Dale Miller,

Jimmy Willock

Men's 65 Major-Plus: **Omen:** Mike Bal-donado, Brian Rooney, Jim Stapleton, Billy Steele, Alvin Tats; **Old A's:** David Briones, Bob Rohatch, Tom Stone

Men's 65 Major: **Old Dawgs 65:** Scott Dillon, Rich Edwards, Henry Hoyes, Jerry Williams, Jim Willock; **Nor-Cal Stixx 65:** Eddie Calip, Steven Etchieson, Mike So

Men's 65/70 Gold: **California Wrecking Crew:** Garry Dovenberg, Tony Garcia, Hal Johnson, Rich Jovel, Ron Martella; **Sacramento Islanders 65:** Lou Chavez, Jerry Enfield, Craig Nakahara, Ed Stoessel

Men's 70 Silver: **Game On:** Billy Boswell, Ron Carlock, Ken Conklin, Win Downing, Willie Williams; **Triple Play** – Ed Alston, Tim Ryan, Mike Rupley

Men's 75 Major: **State Roofing System:** Arnie Bray, John Dryer, Gary Handsher, Noel Lancot, Ed Lowe; **California Oaks:** Bob Fink, Rick Knee, Wayne Philpot, Matt Rocha

Men's 80 Gold: **Sacramento Gold:** Dave Fairchild, Don Fields, Ray Newman, Ron Smith, Roland Stiarwalt; **Redwood City Chiefs:** Dennis Craig, Don Holt, Sid May-torena, Vern Schlotthauer



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Record 194 for LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS - The 2016 LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships, which was held April 19-24, blew up this season drawing a record 194 teams.

Congratulations to the teams that claimed a TOC invitation by winning their respective division in the 3rd largest SSUSA tournament of the year.

The winners were TKP/Hunters (Women's 40 Major), SoCal Toxic (Women's 40AAA), 50 N' Over (Women's 40AA/50) Dudley/Prestige (Men's 40 Major-Plus), Dickies/Elite/Dudley (Men's 40 Major), Sommerville Soft-



ball (Men's 50 Major-Plus), Pacific Coast Alliance (Men's 50AAA), L.A.F. 50/DeMarini (Men's 50/55 Platinum), KSS (Men's 50/55AA), Santisi Brothers (Men's 55AAA), AZ Legends (Men's 55 Major), Summy's Nighthawks (Men's 60 Major-Plus).

West Coast All Stars (Men's 60 Major), Rocco's

(Men's 60AAA), Los Vatos Viejos (Men's 60AA), Timberworks Construction (Men's 65 Major-Plus), MN Masters/An-cell (Men's 65 Major), Over the Edge (Men's 65AAA), Makua Ali'I (Men's 65AA).

Omen (Men's 70 Major-Plus), Top Gun Swat (Men's 70 Major), Hooikaika Kinipopo (Men's 70AAA), Git-R-Done (Men's 70AA), San Francisco Seals (Men's 75 Major-Plus), and Kokopelli Eye Institute Scorpions (Men's 75/80 Gold).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

SSUSA News: The Digital Age

Continued from Page 1

providing timely coverage of tournaments, obituaries and breaking news.

Senior Softball News will continue to publish popular columns, editorials, stories on trends in the sports, as well as short wrap-ups of tournaments and lists of All Tournament players.

Senior Softball News will come out in the Spring, Fall and Winter.

SSUSA will continue publishing a paper edition of the Annual Tournament Guide and mail it to players and managers.

LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships All Tourney Players Named

2016 LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships All Tournament Players:

Women's 40 Major: **TKP** - Michele Alexander, Cindy Coleman, Kelli Handy, Gina Oliver, Elena Song; **Kiss Our Stix** - Patti Albrecht, Linda Ikami, Aretha Tilley

Women's 40AAA: **Smack That** - Stefanie Acton, Monica Barajas, Taryn Martinez, Jonnie Reeves

Women's 40AA/50: **Arizona Dream Team** - Angie Ayala, Jacqui Halyard, Jean Jones, Daisy Soto

Men's 40 Major: **Team Dickies/Elite/Dudley** - Brian Wheatfill, Brian Hunt, Terry Boyd, John Spear, Jaime Pinon; **Reno Elite Silver Bucks** - Blake Gundmundson, Brent Husted, Dallas Kester, Marc Vestbie

Men's 50 Major-Plus: **Sommerville Softball** - Keith Benjamin, Dwayne Curry, Scott Logan, Ron Parnell, Paul Salow; **Cornerstone** - Jeff Black, Al Larsen, Gary Springer

Men's 50/55 Platinum: **L.A.F. 50/DeMarini** - Chip Brakeville, Matt Dobyns, Mike O'Donnell, John Patterson, Wayne Zucker

Men's 50AAA: **Pacific Coast Alliance** - Doug Cherry, Greg Fortin, Kenny Levey, Wes Reynolds, Lawson Williams; **Xtreme**

- Joe Baranski, Rich Moores, Steve Sims, Donnie Sorensen; **Kamikaze** - Doug Champagne, Mike Grimm, Jose Sobalvarro

Men's 55 Major: **AZ Legends** - Jeff Brian, Jim Dickie, Rick Kooyenga, Scott Porter, Steve Rutledge

Men's 55AAA: **Stantisi Brothers** - Jimmy Conner, Gene Ethier, Jim Hernandez, Mike Ross, Alan Sloan; **LVSSA 55 Hitmen** - Steve Camera, Randy Cranford, Bill Kephart, Wayne Roewer

Men's 60 Major-Plus: **Summy's Nighthawks** - Matt Fahring, Joe Hensley, Jon Kramer, Ken Vaught

Men's 60 Major: **Ambush** - Dan Bourget, Bill Griffin, Bruce McClain, Kenny Sheffield; **MN Masters/White** - Eddie Huebsch, Dave Mattson, Garry Morris, Rod Prather; **Demolition** - Tony Baltazar, George Robinson, Wayne Wilcox

Men's 60AAA: **Rocco's 60's** - Larry Denzler, Angel Lopez, Richard Mares, Mike Perez, Joe Simental; **Bucky's Casino** - Don Gilbert, Harold Hancock, Bill Hirschberg; **CJ & S Express** - George MacFadyen, Mike Manna, Pat Ramsey, Dunston Simpson

Men's 60AA: **Los Vatos Viejos** - Frank Barjas, Rudy Franco, Billy Ong, Manuel Ramirez, Jess Silva; **New Mexico Warriors**

- Art Burrola, Richard Ornelas, Jaime Trevino; **Scrap Iron 60's Rockies** - Kelly Hallman, John Parisi, Charlie Powell, Jay Yoa-kum

Men's 65 Major-Plus: **Timberworks Construction** - Hank Alonzo, Tom Amundson, John Cochran, Steve Owens, Doak Whitley; **Omen** - Steve Callan, Brian Rooney, Conway Waddy, Dan Walsworth

Men's 65 Major: **Nor-Cal Stixx** - Ed Calip, Ron May, Phil Montez, Mike So; **SoCal Gusto** - Tom Aguilar, Dave Lacey, Lary Row

Men's 65AAA: **Over the Edge** - Nick Basta, Danny Coterel, Dan Nava, Rod Schemp, Bob Templeton; **OC Mustangs** - Don Cuzick, Paul Dahlgren, Al Gingerelli, John Miller; **KC Kids** - Dennis Clauder, Bill Radford, Randy Rowe

Men's 65AA: **Makua Ali'I** - William Andrade, Tony Fernandes, Glenn Morihara, Mike Sinnott, Paul Torres; **Duke City Dynamite** - Rich Doney, Ray Johnson, Joe Romero, Ken Summers; **Desert Heat** - James Brown, Mike Falkawitz, George LaCombe

Men's 70 Major-Plus: **Omen 70's** - Randy Bobby, Ed Carey, Gerald Ford, Otis Menasco, Billy Wilson; **Scrap Iron 70 Legacy** - Jim Brown, James Contreras,

Mike Hoffberg, Gene Smith; **Tharaldson's** - Paul Callaghan, Bob Gregorich, Jim Hoenninger

Men's 70 Major: **Top Gun Swat** - Jerry Avila, Jerry Herling, Mike Ingalis, Mel Makos, Denny McCoy; **Tri-State Diamond-backs** - Roger Assink, Ron Case, Ken Ikeman

Men's 70AAA: **Scrap Iron 70 Reds** - Joe Burton, Doug Kinney, Larry Neal, Bob Parella; **Masters Marauders** - Craig Barraclough, John Conacher, Allan Didrikson

Men's 70AA: **El Paso Nine-Elevens** - Jaime Arras, Tommy Loyd, Bobby Nava, Donnie Reay

Men's 75 Major-Plus: **San Francisco Seals** - Bob Banchemo, Bobby Davis, Herb Epple, Bob Hannah, Terry Nafziger; **Top Gun 75 Classics** - Dave Duarte, Bob McCormick, Larry Thompson

Men's 75 Major: **California Connection** - Gary Adams, Gary Evans, Jim George, George Lawson, Max Litt; **Scrap Iron Beams** - Dave Boone, Bob Lennon, Don McGill, Carroll Shook

Men's 75AAA: **Kokopelli Scorpions** - John Bellavia, Melvin Bentley, Ken Ponzio, Larry Richey, John Siegle; **Top Gun Silver 75's** - Ed Balingier, Gary Bottenfield, Dan Emer

Men's 75/80+ Gold: **Hui Ohana** - Danny Ayala, Dennis Holland, Terry Kimura, Guy Ruiz



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COMBAT

15 Win TOC Bids At 50+ Spring Worlds



Softball News Report

ST. GEORGE, UTAH - The 2016 Spring World Championships were held from March 29 - April 3 at The Canyon's Complex and The Fields at Little Valley. In total, 85 teams participated with 15 earning the coveted TOC invitation.

The teams that claimed a TOC invitation by winning their respective division were Arizona Old School (Men's 50-Major), Mc U Sports (Men's 50-AAA), KSS (Men's 50-AA), L.A.F. (Men's 55-Platinum), Hard Tens/Oxnard (Men's

55-AAA), Last Call 60 (Men's 60-Platinum), Scrap Iron High Octane (Men's 60-AAA), Scrap Iron Freedom (Men's 60-AA), Arizona Ancient (Men's 65-Major), Over The Edge (Men's 65-AAA), Scrap Iron 70 Red (Men's 65/70-Silver), Scrap Iron 70 Legacy (Men's 70-Major Plus), Top Gun Swat (Men's 70-Major), California Oaks (Men's 70-AA) and Fairway Ford 80 (Men's 75/80-Gold).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Inaugural 40's Spring Worlds a Big Success



Softball News Report

CATHEDRAL CITY, CALIF. - The inaugural 40's Spring World Championships, a TOC qualifier, was held at Big League Dreams, March 19-20, with 19 teams (17 from California) competing in two divisions (Major Plus and Major).

The Men's 40 Masters Major Plus division featured five teams, while the Men's 40 Masters Gold division consisted of 14 teams. EliteSportsUSA.Net/Dudley earned a TOC bid winning the Major-Plus division while Nikon Trucking impressed all weekend winning the Major division.

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

All Tournament Players on Next Page

50+ Spring Worlds All Tourney Players Named

2016 50+ Spring Worlds All Tournament Players:

Men's 50 Major: **Arizona Old School** - Rich Lawson, Randy Mason, Mark McClain, Randy Pongratz, John Tackitt; **Phoenix Bulldawgz** - Terry Newhart, Randy Tompkins, Rob Tucker

Men's 50AAA: **Never Say Never/Big Al's Trucking** - Ted Hayward, Kirk Taylor, Henry Tovar; **Pacific Coast Alliance** - Bill Heriford, Greg Metcalf, Brandon Mitchell

Men's 50AA: **KSS** - Armando Caban, Mark Esquibel, Roy Heisner, Alex Lara, Bob Posey; **Horn Softball** - Cary Cube, William Dodge, Robert O'Mara, Steve Sissenstein;

Men's 55 Platinum: **L.A.F. 55** - Ron Barnhart, Chip Brakeville, Michael O'Donnell, Joe Quintero, Alan Shelley; **So Cal 55** - Tony Baltazar, Jeff Iannone, Eric Prevost, Frank Riese; **Grants Posse II** - Jeff Hutchison, Greg Rojas, Glenn Stevenson

Men's 55AAA: **Hard Tens/Oxnard Rookies** - Rudy Jazo, Michael Leighty, George Martinez, Andrew Mendoza, Carlos Zaragoza; **Braves** - Daryl Hunt, Marlin Gunn, Ron Larrieu, Matt Palmer

Men's 60 Major-Plus: **Top Gun Elite 60** - Joel Hawk, Paul Lederman, Scott Wolters

Men's 60AAA: **Scrap Iron High Octane** - Dave Adams, Terry Liverant, Gary Nation, Randy Pearson, Don Whitlow; **Scrap Iron Legends**: Dale Daugherty, Ed Dille, Bob Lienart, Andy Shapiro; **Jaxx** - Gene Boyle, Larry Larson, Mike Marshall

Men's 60AA: **Scrap Iron Freedom** - Curt Dicke, Gary Foster, Larry Haden, Mike Roemer, Mike Weston; **Scrap Iron Rookies 60's** - Pete Ayotte, Eddie Buonaiuto, Jay Yoakum; **Los Vatos Viejos** - Dean Burrows, Tony Cabrales, Manny Hurtado

Men's 65 Major - **AZ Ancient** - Bill Campbell, Duane Hopkins, Don Joesten, Chuck Lee, Walt Kado; **R&R 65's** - Wes Baker, Tad Ludes, Dick Markota, Mike Quigley; **Scrap Iron Phiten** - Mike Edwards, Ken Hiatt, Jerry Malberg

Men's 65AAA: **Over the Edge** - Nick Basta, Paul Pennington, Gary Scarlet, Jerry Smith, Charles Sterling; **Fountain Valley Outlaws** - Rob Albert, Rick Ridenour, Jack White, Jim Ziemer; **Sidewinders** - Jerry Bianchi, Bob Hamilton, Orie McDonald

Men's 65/70 Silver: **Scrap Iron 70 Reds** - Warren Bailey, Bob Bennett, Doug Kinney, Marlan Roper, Bob Sims; **Last Call** - Bob DeLong, Skip Parker, Barry Sustin, Willie Williams

Men's 70 Major-Plus: **Scrap Iron 70 Legacy** - Greg Broeckelman, Rick Buckland, Dale McLaughlin, Gene Smith, Stan Suichta; **Omen** - Randy Bobby, Bob Cummings, Rich Schmidt, Dave Sells

Men's 70 Major: **Top Gun Swat** - Jerry Avila, Melvyn Makos, Dennis McCoy, Herman Vaught, Irving Waldo; **Tri-State Diamondbacks** - Ron Case, Gary Hanson, JW Perry, Les Poland

Men's 70AAA: **Sons of Pitches** - Carl Craft, Bob Jackson, Chris Mills

Men's 70AA: **California Oaks** - Rich Anderson, Drew Asher, Dave Avery, Glen Cole, Everett Richardson; **Git-R-Done 70** - Claude Labarre, Ed Nilsen, Donnie Sternberger, Michael Welch

Men's 75/80 Gold: **Magic Stuff** - Kelly Dutton, Phil Feicok, Ken Fiala, Glen Hovey; **Fairway Ford** - RJ Jerrels, Al Kumm, Ed Rahn, Jack Scott, Roger Williams; **Light-house** - Les Blum, David Drummond, Hal White



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Spring Nationals Draw 28 Teams

Softball News Report

POLK COUNTY, FLA. - The Spring National Championships were held at the Auburndale Sports Complex on April 8-10 with 28 teams competing across nine divisions.

The winners of TOC berths include: Southside/Blue Mountain (Men's 50 Major-

Plus), Florida Automated Shade (Men's 50 Major), Team Impact (Men's 55/60 Platinum), GAP Sports (Men's 55/60/65 Gold), Slug-A-Bug (Men's 60/65AAA), Venom (Men's 70 Major-Plus), Southeast Left-Overs (Men's 70 Platinum), Syracuse Cyclones (Men's 70AAA) and Center for Sight 85 (Men's 75/85 Gold).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Spring Nationals All Tourney Players Named

2016 Spring Nationals All Tournament Players:

Men's 50 Major-Plus: **Florida Automated Team 1 Sports/Miken** – Donnie Burke, Ned Johnson, John Livingston, Alan Tanner;

Men's 50 Major: **Florida Automated Shade** – Mike Brock, James Butler, Laz Morales, Joe Varacchi Jr., Larry Veahman; **Public Enemy** – Ken Blacketer, Robert Bright, Steve Kalbaugh, John Loftus; **Miami Power** – Lewis Craig, Robeno Minaya, Gregory Neal

Men's 55/60 Platinum: **Team Impact** – John Hefflefinger, John Miles, Manny Queipo, Jennis Sills, Leonard Simmons; **Hollis Appraisals** – Mike Monnier, Randy Parker, Lawrence Reedus;

Men's 55/60/65 Gold: **GAP Sports** – Keith Buss, Donny Keshock, Scott McNichols, Mark Miller, Brad Weber; **Ballbusters** – Doug Brooks, Dave Horton, Steve Palacios, Hector Ramos; **Team Florida** – John Lambert, Al LePage, Tony Vodola

Men's 60/65AAA: **Cardiac Kids** – Marion Brister, Stan McLellan, Tom Oltmann
Men's 70 Major-Plus: **Venom** – Tom Dabbs, Mike Marcum, Vince Melograno, Larry Sample, Clyde Smith;

Men's 70AAA: **CC Medical Services** – Dave Clark, Bob D'Angelo, Jay Rae, Jerry Salata;

Men's 75 Platinum: **Bucs and Bulls 75's** – Frank Congleton, John Ormsby, Bob Skidmore, Jim Sumner

Men's 75/80 Gold: **Center for Sight** – Hugh Brotherton, Don Gsell, Richard Pavlak, Howard Schoen, Jim Thomas

40's Spring Worlds All Tourney Players Named

Continued from Page 12

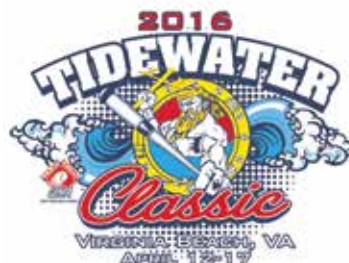
2016 40's Spring Worlds All Tournament Players:

Men's 40 Major Plus: **EliteSportsUSA.net/Dudley** – Keith Benjamin, Jeff Hairell, Kelly Hoekstra, Jason Holmes; **Nor Cal Stars** – Corey Nicewonger, Derek Wilson

Softball News Report

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. - Teams from around the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions competed at the 2016 Tidewater Classic, a TOC Qualifier, held at the Princess Anne Athletic Complex. The 65-age group kicked off the tournament playing April 12-14, while the 40's through the 60's-age group played April 15-17.

In total eight TOC invitations were



grabbed by Team Elite/Miken (Men's 40/50 Gold), Team 757 (Men's 50AAA), Woodlawn Funeral Home (Men's 55 Major), Building Innovation (Men's 55 Major), Longshoremen (Men's 55/60AA), Northern Virginia Force (60AA), Promotion Softball (60 Platinum) and Long Island Jaguars Red (Men's 65AAA).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Tidewater Classic All Tourney Players Named

2016 Tidewater Classic All Tournament Players:

Men's 40/50 Gold: **Team Elite** – Danny Gregory, Barry Lynn, Richard Olsen, Charlie Searight, Robert Smith; **Superior 40s/Potomac Sports** – AJ King, Allan Largent, Paul Mittermeier, Walt Pryor

Men's 50AAA: **Team 757** – Bruce Damet, Maurice Dawson, George Shelby, John Tate, Leon White; **Straight Gas** – Jerome Bracey, Ronald Davis, James Gibson

Men's 55 Major: **Woodlawn Funeral Home** – Gus Eddins, Greg Panza, Jeff Robinson, Eddie Sanchez, Mike Watson; **The Bank** – Rick Cornanchini, Greg Donophan, Gary Lewis, Joe Lucas, Bob Pierce; **Omega** – Ear-nold Ingram, Tony Marlow, Prestone Phillips

Men's 55AAA: **Building Innovation Group** – Rich Ezell, Bob Foley, Steve Holmes, Rick Redmond, Jeff Shondelmyer;

Harford County LV – Steven Jameson, Anthony Malinowski, Tim Mowery, Larry Smith; **PACS/Preferred Maintenance** – Mike Carroll, Kenny Dowden, Emanuel Jackson

Men's 55/60AA: **Syracuse Cyclones** – Jack Baxter, Tom Mirande, Jim Ranucci

Men's 60 Platinum: **Promotion** – Al Be-tau, Tom Funk, Dave Giannell, Tom Straniero, Fred Sweeney; **Hannington's 60** – Joseph Frongello, David Hawkins, Kevin Lipsett, Tom Tashea; **Carolina Cobras** – Danny Ballard, Don Clatterbough, Randy Thomas

Men's 60AAA: **Long Island Jaguars 60's** – TJ Frierson, Jim McDowell, Don Thompson, Charlie Valenti

Men's 65AAA: **Long Island Jaguars Red** – John Celantano, Doug Delle Cave, John Glazer, Joe Goonan, James O'Gara; **Hamel Builders** – Lou Lussi, Jasper Pendergrass, Don Williamson



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TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

Continued from Page 1

the original Tournament of Champions (TOC).

“The event itself transcends any other softball tournament anywhere – and truly honors the winners of 2015 in a very special way,” said Terry Hennessy, Senior Softball-USA chief executive officer.

Consider just the extras:

- The 1,500-person banquet at the Lakeland Center.

- A free Josten’s top-quality ring for each player of the winning team in the 30 divisions competing.

- A bat for the MVP in each of the 30 divisions.

- Polo shirt for each of the 1,000-plus players.

- Free skills contests with bats, gloves and shoes as prizes.

- A free hitting clinic with some of the best hitters in the country.

- An epic All Star Game.

- A game against the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball team.

“And that doesn’t even include the main event –



competition against the best teams in the country in each division,” he said.

The TOC drew the winners from National, World and Regional SSUSA championships and most divisions

Please See Page 16



LVSSA Hitmen captured the 55AAA Division championships by defeating Olympic Athletics of Pennsylvania 15-11 in the "IF" game.



The TOC American All Stars, blue caps, defeated the National All Stars, red caps, in the popular face-off on Wednesday evening, kicking off TOC festivities. The American All Stars were slated to play the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team, but the event was rained-out.



The gem of the Tournament of Champions is the sit-down banquet at the beautiful Lakeland Center for 1,500 players and their families.

2016 TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPION MVP’S

Each TOC Division MVP received a TOC Miken Ultra II bat.

- 1. **Curtis Wilson:** Suncoast Dudley 40 (FL) 40-Major
- 2. **Reynaldo Gutierrez Jr:** Team 1 Sports (FL) 50-Major Plus
- 3. **Brett Kreuger:** Doerflinger Softball (WA) 50-Major
- 4. **Randy Tompkins:** Phoenix Bulldawgz (AZ) 50-AAA
- 5. **Gary Hatmaker:** The Grey Geese (FL) 50-AA
- 6. **Rich Meltz:** Hollis Appraisals (FL) 60-Major Plus
- 7. **Mark Frastak:** High Street Bucs 55 (MD) 55-Major
- 8. **Brian Buhl:** LVSSA 55 Hitmen (NV) 55-AAA
- 9. **Dave Miller:** Scrap Iron Coyotes 55 (CO) 55-AA
- 10. **George Roberts:** Kinnco Services (IN) 60-Major
- 11. **David Reed:** Team Florida 65-Major Plus
- 12. **Ray Glynn:** Minnesota Masters/Ancell 60-AAA
- 13. **Don Gilbert:** Bucky’s Casino (AZ) 60-AA

- 14. **Larry Sample:** Southern State Services (FL) 65-Major
- 15. **Dave Sellars:** TB Financial Services 70-Major Plus
- 16. **Matt Matson:** Florida Mustangs 65-AAA
- 17. **Juan Alicea-Sanchez:** AMR South 70’s 70-Major
- 18. **Butch Schultheis:** Long Island Jaguars White (NY) 65-AA
- 19. **David Joseph:** Bostonian 70 (MA) 70-AAA
- 20. **TBA:** Columbus Silver Sticks (IN) MEN’S 70-AA
- 21. **Jake Dieter:** New York Statesmen 75 75-Major
- 22. **Bob Hostetler:** Peachtree Restaurant (PA) 75-AAA
- 23. **Dave Bush:** Florida Investment Properties 80 80-Major
- 24. **Don Gsell:** Center for Sight 85 (FL) 85-Major
- 25. **George Stark:** Gray Sox 80 (MI) 80-AAA
- 26. **Sara Payne:** Kryptonite (FL) Women’s 40-Masters Major
- 27. **Beth Robinson:** Chill 40 Below (VA) Women’s 40-AAA
- 28. **Shirley Simmons Snell:** Dreamgirlz 50 (VA) Women’s 50+ Division



Zhaoli and Bruce Chen happily greet the crowd at the TOC banquet in the Lakeland Center.

Photos by Jack Eberhard

China Softball Ambassador Lauds Seniors Playing in the TOC

By Zhaoli Chen

POLK COUNTY, FLA. – Coming to the United States to witness first-hand what Senior Softball has to offer, I was immediately enthralled by everything from the beautiful Florida lakes, the clear blue sky, the Kennedy Space Center and Walt Disney World.

But what was especially exciting to me was to see those slowpitch softball players with white and gray hairs but young faces running in the green baseball fields – a lovely sight indeed.

I came here in early February to attend the Senior Softball USA Tournament of Champions, an event that attracts championship-winning teams from across the United States.

I had the luck to join part of the program of the TOC and I had a very happy and enjoyable time. Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA, invited me to join the National All-Star team. This was a first for me and I felt honored and had a truly

unforgettable experience.

The tournament’s organizers offered a wide variety of interesting games and awards. There were both group competition programs and some technical and skill contests programs. Although the players are stars of championship teams, they still listened intently to the coaches and trainers. Their learning spirits almost made me forget that they were senior players as I thought of them as just like the pupils in the classrooms.

The powerful homerun hitting, the perfect positioning pitching, and all the skillful performances of the players received overwhelming applause from the audience. I was also impressed by those who were chasing the exciting moments of the sports with their cameras as well as the volunteers who contributed their services to the TOC. Everyone found their interests and joy in the sport.

In particular, the Wounded Warriors team found their great

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TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY

Suncoast, Doerflinger, Grey Geese Win Titles

Continued from Page 14

were geographically diverse and represented by the top teams – making for exciting games and excellent softball.

The 40/50 Platinum Division consisted of three 40 Major teams: Homer Lovers, Suncoast Dudley and MidAtlantic Elite, while Team 1 Sports/Miken represented the lone 50 Major Plus team. Top seed, Homer Lovers, defeated MidAtlantic 40s 15-14 to open the bracket. Team 1 Sports dispatched Suncoast to the elimination bracket in a high scoring affair, 34-27. Suncoast went on to squeak by MidAtlantic 25-24 and Team 1, 32-19, to claw their way into the championship game. The championships provided one of the best games of the tournament with Suncoast forcing an 'IF', winning 35-34 against Homer Lovers. Suncoast's bats stayed hot in the 'IF' as they were able to double dip Homer Lovers 25-10 to win the division.

Four teams also comprised the 50 Major division, Doerflinger, El Paso Spurs, Good Times and Suncoast Dudley 50. After some impressive play in the seeding round, Doerflinger continued their excellent play right on into the bracket. As the No. 1 seed, they overcame a test against El Paso Spurs 24-19 in the first round. Their gloves then also caught fire as Doerflinger dispatched Suncoast and Good Times with terrific defense 21-7 and 22-7 to win the division championship.

The 50 AAA division was geographically diverse, hosting seven teams from six different states from Arizona to Maryland. Fifth-seeded GAP Sports went on quite a run through the bracket, defeat-



Photo by Jack Eberhard

Carolina Five-0, running, faced off against Team, 050 in the seeding rounds of the 50AAA division. The Phoenix Bulldawgz won the title.

ing Motor City, Arizona Old School and Carolina Five-O. The Phoenix Bulldawgz were sent to the elimination bracket in the second round losing 18-14 to Carolina Five-O. After a gritty win against Maryland Cougars, 17-12, the Bulldawgz ran into a fatigued and injured Carolina Five-O team who was forced to concede victory to the Bulldawgz, placing them in the championship. Fresh off the forfeit from Carolina, the Bulldawgz rallied to a 17-10 victory over GAP Sports in the championship. In the 'IF' the Bulldawgz were once again the better squad as they shut the door on GAP Sports 19-14 for the championship.

A mixed division comprised the 50/55 AA bracket with Manifest and Grey Geese representing the 50s age group and Scrap Iron Coyotes and Silver

Foxes representing the 55s. Scrap Iron Coyotes won a barn burner in the opening game of the bracket against top seeded Grey Geese, 20-18. The Coyotes then dispatched the Silver Foxes with relative ease 21-12 to gain their way into the championships round. The Grey Geese fought their way through the elimination bracket to once again square off with Scrap Iron in the championship. Because Scrap Iron was the lone 55 team and Grey Geese the lone 50 team left standing, the teams agreed on a winner-take-all championship, voiding any potential 'IF' game that could take place. The agreement worked in the Grey Geese's favor after they defeated the Coyotes 24-19 to win the bracket outright.

Seven different teams represented

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TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY

Las Vegas, Hollis, Bucs, Bucky's Victorious

Continued from Page 16

seven different states in the 55 AAA division, spanning the country from California to Pennsylvania. Olympian Athletics grabbed a bye as the top seed in the bracket to square off with Integrity Builders in the second round. Olympian grabbed the early bracket victory with a combination of timely hitting and defense, 17-9 over Integrity. LVSSA Hitmen dumped Olympian into the elimination bracket, defeating them 20-19 to edge their way into the championship game. Olympian Athletics was once again matched up against Integrity Builders in the elimination bracket. Integrity was not able to overcome Olympian and once again they fell 23-13. Olympian defeated LVSSA 15-10 in the championships to force an 'IF.' However, LVSSA Hitmen bounced back to a 15-11 victory to win the division championship.

Seven teams competed in the mixed 55/60 Platinum division. As the sixth seed, Hollis Appraisals made an impressive run to the championship by scoring no less than 21 runs in three consecutive victories, highlighted by their narrow margined victory over No. 1 seed Tasty Pizza. After losing in the first round to Hollis 24-15, High Street Bucs ran through the elimination bracket with ease, defeating their opponents by an average of seven runs in three straight wins. Their dominance of the elimination bracket once again



Photo by Jack Eberhard

Southern States Services of Florida, above, defeated San Antonio Silver Streaks in the 65/70 division.

set the table for a matchup with Hollis in the championship. However, there would be no game as the teams decided to call it a tournament and take the title in each of their respective divisions, Hollis capturing the 60 Major Plus championship and High Street Bucs securing the division for the 55 Majors.

As 60 Major teams, KC Renegades and Kinnco Services took on Team Florida, 65 Major Plus in the 60/65 Platinum division. Third-seeded KC Renegades took on No. 2 seed Team Florida in the first round of the bracket with the Renegades getting a one-run victory, 24-23. However, the bracket would belong to Kinnco Services as they dispatched KC Renegades 23-11 and 23-14 to win the championship. Team Florida bowed out of the tournament after their one-run defeat, exiting as the 65 Major

Plus champion.

The second largest bracket of the tournament was the 60 AAA division with eight teams. Minnesota Masters/Ancell proved the adage 'it's not how you start, it's how you finish.' After dropping their first game of the tournament 16-7 to T.A.G., the Masters regrouped and finished strong. As the fourth seed in the bracket, they made short work of the top seed, Northern Virginia Force, 22-7 in the second round. The Masters continued their dominant play with a 17-5 victory over Bomb Squad to claim the stake in the championship. No. 3 seed Slug-A-Bug provided the Masters with their first true test of the tournament in the championship game. A thrilling and well fought game by both teams ended with the Minnesota Masters claiming a 21-20 victory for the champion-

ship.

Seven teams competed in the 60 AA division. Scrap Iron Freedom handled Stagecoach Saloon 19-4 to send the top seed into the elimination bracket. Bucky's Casino battled their way through the bracket to face Scrap Iron with a chance to reach the championship round. Bucky's won a competitive ball game 16-11 to advance to the title game. However, Scrap Iron held strong in the elimination bracket by defeating Stagecoach 17-15. The rematch with Bucky's Casino was a futile effort, as Scrap Iron seemed to have run out of gas. Bucky's handled them with ease, cruising to a 18-4 championship victory.

TB Financial Group represented the lone 70 Major Plus team as they took on five other 65 Major teams in the mixed division. As the one and two seeds respectively, San Antonio Silver Streaks and Southern State Services both grabbed byes to begin bracket play. The Silver Streaks then cruised past TB Financial 19-9 while Southern State Services squeaked by the Marauders 20-19. Southern State then slugged their way past the Silver Streaks 25-15 for their spot in the championship game. Fourth seed Windsor Chiefs crushed the San Antonio Silver Streaks 30-6 in the elimination bracket to square off with Southern State in the finals. A high scoring championship game

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TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY

Jaguars, Mustangs, Bostonians, FIP on Top

Continued from Page 17

ensued with Southern State Services claiming the division with a 30-20 win.

Four teams from California, Indiana, New York and Texas made their way to Florida for a chance at the 65 AA division. In the first round, the No. 1 seeded Long Island Jaguars defeated Damaged Goods, 15-6 while three seed Indiana Legends upset the Dallas Spurs 13-7. The Jaguars then went on to cruise by the Legends 17-9 to make their way into the championship game. The Indiana Legends stormed back against the Dallas Spurs in an offensive slugfest 32-27 to claw their way out of the elimination bracket. However, the Long Island Jaguars were able to continue their dominance to win the division over the Legends 25-17.

The largest division of the tournament took place in the 65/70 Gold division with nine teams vying for their shot at the TOC championship. Top seed AMR South, a 70 Major Plus, made a surprisingly quick exit from the tournament with a bracket loss 11-8 to Spice Properties, 65 AAA. AMR then removed themselves from the elimination bracket with a forfeit to Sacramento Islanders, 65 AAA. The second-seeded Florida Mustangs strung together an impressive run against Doc Martens/Ropes Course, U.S. Jobs/Direct Employers and MCC Insurance by an average of 8 runs a game, to gain



Photo by Jack Eberhard

Minnesota Lumberjacks, above, lost to Bostonian 70s in the 70/75 Gold Division 14-9.

their spot in the championship game. U.S. Jobs fought their way out of the elimination bracket with a convincing victory over MCC 16-5. The championship matchup between the Florida Mustangs and U.S. Jobs was a defensive battle with the local team, Mustangs taking the crown 17-12.

The 70/75 Gold division pitted two 70 AAA teams, Bostonian and Minnesota Lumberjacks, against two 75 Major teams, Bucs and Bulls and New York Statesmen. Bostonian took early control of the bracket with an 18-6 victory over Bucs and Bulls. Bostonian fought their way through a scrappy Lumberjacks team in the second round 15-8. The Lumberjacks were rewarded with a forfeit by the New York Statesmen in the elimination round, setting up a championship rematch

with Bostonian. Another close ball game ensued but the Lumberjacks failed to get over the hump as Bostonian took the division 14-9.

Another four-team division comprised the 70/75 Silver bracket. Columbus Silver Sticks and Indianapolis Classics, 70 AA, battled with Hill Contracting and Peach Tree Restaurant, 75 AAA. Both 70 AA teams emerged victorious in the first round of the bracket to square off in a barn burner in the second round, with the Silver Sticks edging out Indianapolis Classics 25-24. Peach Tree forfeited their elimination game to the Indy Classics, as they had wrapped up the 75 AAA championship. Columbus pulled away late from the Indy Classics with a 29-16 victory to win the division.

Florida Investment Properties, Minnesota Legends

and ProHelath Care all had their eyes set on obtaining the 80 Major division championship. As the third seed, Minnesota Legends outlasted ProHealth Care 12-11 in the first round only to fall to No. 1 seed Florida Investments 13-5. MN Legends once again defeated ProHelath Care by a slightly larger margin, 12-8, to face off with Florida Investments once again in the championship. Florida Investment Properties (FIP) played a flawless game in the final to defeat Minnesota Legends 17-11 and win the 80 Major division.

Center For Sight, 85 Major took on BackOffice Associates and Gray Sox, 80 AAA in the 80/85 Gold division. Center For Sight defeated BackOffice 12-7 in the opening round but then fell to the one seed Gray Sox 17-6. BackOffice and Center For Sight battled back and forth in an elimination game Sunday morning and Center For Sight emerged victorious 14-13. Another excellent championship game followed between Gray Sox and Center For Sight. Center For Sight continued their excellence by defeating the Gray Sox 21-20 consequently winning the division. The Gray Sox were also crowned 80AAA champions.

In the Women's 40 Gold division, Kryptonite Majo, went head to head with Chill 40 Below, AAA, for the TOC division title. In the open-

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TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS: POLK COUNTY

Kryptonite and Dreamgirlz Win

Continued from Page 18

ing bracket game, Kryptonite hung tough to secure a 20-17, victory. With both teams worn down, Kryptonite won another tight ballgame 17-13 to win the division. Chill 40 Below was awarded the Women's 40 AAA division title.

The Women's 50 division was also a best-of-three matchup between Arizona

Dream Team and Dreamgirlz, hailing from Virginia. Arizona Dream Team battled till the end but Dreamgirlz proved themselves dominant with consecutive wins of 16-9 and 17-11 for the division championship.

The TOC is sponsored by Polk County Sports Marketing, Miken Sports, Josten's and SSUSA.



Photo by Jack Eberhard

In Women's 40 division, Kryptonite, above, defeated Chill 40, 17-13.

2016 TOC All Tourney Players Named

Men's 40/50 Platinum:
Team 1 Sports/Miken – Tony Bassett, Don Burke, Edward Starcher

Men's 50 Major: **Doerflinger** – James Buchanan, Kenny Jackson, Todd Deck, Emory Lunsford, Paul Mercado; **Suncoast Dudley** – Timothy Bohlmann, Reggi Brown, Ernie Colon Jr.; **El Paso Spurs** – Fernando Briseno, Fabian Sanchez

Men's 50AAA: **Phoenix Bulldawgz** – Randy Tompkins, Cory Fitzlaff, Kenny Vaught, Paul Hendricks, Manny Ramirez, Charley Marshall; **GAP Sports** – William Cressman, Jeff Farr, Mark Miller, Bob Morse; **Carolina Five-0** – Bruce Holmes, Jeff Lester, Drew Pearson

Men's 50AA: **The Grey Geese** – Stan Adams, Robbie Fowle, Glen Looper, Stu Rapella, Johnny Vaughn; **Manifest 50's** – David Juarez, Nacho Liebas

Men's 55/60 Platinum:
Hollis Appraisals 60 – Ed Carrington, Horace Jefferson, Pat McLellan, Rich Meltz, Dave Motta;

Tasty Pizza/J and H Wall/Showcase 55 – Don Hoffman, Dan Krtnick, Steve Swanson;

SoCal 55 – Ray Robles, Tony Baltazar

Men's 55AAA: **LVSSA 55 Hitmen** – Brian Buhl, Gary Gosz, Ed Harman, Mike Stater, Bill Udart; **Olympian Athletics** – Pat Daley, Doug Hartzok, Mike Keenan, Shaun Young; **Integrity Builders** – Rod Chambers, Chuck Grubb, Richard Wyllie
Men's 55AA: **Silver Foxes** – Paul Grillot, Billy Oblaczynski, Daniel Woodcum

Men's 60/65 Platinum:
Kinnco Services – Tim Barker, Bill Koleszar, Billy Osborn, George Roberts, Terry Lee, John Van Wagner; **KC Renegades** – Robert Radford, David Cook, Terry Cloutier, Charlie Daniels

Men's 60AAA – **Minnesota Masters/Ancell** – Gary Bennett, Bruce Boyer, Ray Glynn, Wayne Peterson, Fritz Wegscheider; **MP Components** – Jack Griffin, Cal Lounds, Greg, Maddelein

Men's 60AA – **Bucky's Casino** – Don Gilbert, Bill Hirschberg, Doug Royse, Duane Steinbrink, Bob Ziegler; **Scrap Iron Freedom** – Mike Boulrier, Gary Foster, Mick Roemer, George Wise; **Stagecoach Saloon** – Rich Marquez, Steve Tucker, Dennis

York

Men's 65 Major: **Southern State Services** – Pete Carrier, Jim Kahn, Don Leshner, Bill Magley, Larry Sample, Mike Walsh; **San Antonio Silver Streaks** – Dennis Abernethy, Mel Colwell, Chris Schneider

Men's 65AAA: **Florida Mustangs** – Chuck Duff, Gary DeFalco, Don Held, Eric Johnson, Don Witmer; **US Jobs/Direct Employers** – Jerry England, Chuck Loeser, Curt Pribble, Tom Sornson; **MCC Insurance** – Bob Darrah, Steve Lambert, John Hayes

Men's 65AA: **Indiana Legends/Columbus** – John Gunn, Dan Londeree, Jerry Pardue, Steve Taylor; **Damaged Goods** – Bill Neri, Tim Ryan, Fred Pratt

Men's 70AAA: **Bostonian 70** – Bob Clifford, Tom Hall, Dave Joseph, Ray LePage, Mike Russillo; **MN Lumberjacks 70** – Rich Hanson, Mick Leibfried, Walt Petersen, Rich Root

Men's 70AA: **Columbus Silver Sticks** – Joe Andrew, Ron Cochran, Don Cohron, Doug King, Jack Scott; **Indianapolis Classics** – Ron Huser, Butch Perry, Ken Keeler, Ken Bonham

Men's 75 Major: **New York Statesmen 75** – Fred Cronin, Jake Dieter, Jim Nugent, Dick Ochampaugh, Jack Westbrook; **Bucs & Bulls 75** – Frank Congleton, Doug McLellan, Don Schroeder

Men's 75AAA: **Peachtree Restaurant** – Art Barnes, Marvin Kravitz, Bob Hostetler, Joel Medvidovich, Tom Sieworek

Men's 80 Major: **Florida Investment Properties** – Dave Bush, Bob Johnson, Larry McCurdy, Joe Sykes, Roger Thresher, Bill Yeager; **Jimmy's MN. Legends 80** – Dave Belbin, Bob D'Amadio, Stan Droogsma, Norris Kruse

Men's 80/85 Gold: **Center for Sight 85** – Everett Arnold, Don Gsell, Ralph Martz, Richard Pavlak, Robert Rogers, Howard Schoen; **Gray Sox 80** – Norm Ellis, Jud Gebben, Joe Reynolds, Will Venema, Herschel Wells; **BackOffice Associates 80** – Nate Koppel, Jim Parmelee, Vince Van Norman

Women's 40 Masters: **Kryptonite** – Michelle Carroll, Carolyn Deeb, Karen Hunger, Sara Payne, Mirian Shields, Theresa Walburger



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Trips to Taiwan, Germany-Austria

SSUSA Players to Compete in Pacific Rim, Bavarian and Vienna Championships

Softball News Report

Senior Softball USA is happy to announce two international trips – to opposite sides of the planet.

The first will be Oct. 17-25, 2016, to compete in the Fourth Pacific Rim Championships in Taiwan and the second will be June 22-July 4, 2017, to Germany and Austria to play in the Bavarian Championships in Munich and the Vienna Classic.

All SSUSA registered players, previous International Tours players and their families are invited. Senior Softball USA has brought players to more than 30 countries over the past three decades.

The International Tours are designed to give players and their families an opportunity to play softball in exotic locations, meet players

from other countries, sample the cultural highlights of the countries and make friends with players from throughout America on the International SSUSA teams.

The Pacific Rim Championships, played in Las Vegas during the World Masters Championships last year, will be in Changhua City, Taiwan this year. Teams from China, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, South Korea and America will compete.

“The Pacific Rim games are played with the soft Joyful ball and are designed to promote the sport through friendship throughout the Pacific Rim,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer.

The tour includes sight-seeing in exotic Taipei, Taiwan’s largest city, a visit to



Neuschwanstein Castle (known as the Fairytale Castle) is one of the stops in Germany.

Sun Moon Lake, most meals, practice for the tournament, a special banquet with players from other countries and the two-day competition in Changhua City.

SSUSA is celebrating 30 years of International Tours in 2017, with a special tour to Germany and Austria that includes two tournaments.

“This tour through Bavaria in Southern Germany and the gems of Austria – Innsbruck, Salzburg and Vienna – will create memories that will last a lifetime,” said Hennessy. “It will wind through picturesque Bavarian towns, into the famous Fairytale Castle, through the Alps and its beautiful alpine pastures into Innsbruck, then to Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest. The

tour continues through the “Sound of Music” country to the fabulous Melk Abbey, built in 1089, and finally to one of the most beautiful cities in Europe: Vienna.”

Softball on the tour includes a two-day tournament in Munich, the Bavarian Championships, and a second two-day tournament in Vienna, which will include a special music presentation. Both tournaments will provide get-togethers with the German and Austrian teams, and a chance to get to make new friends.

For more information, on both tours, please call Ross McCulligan at 916-326-5303, or e-mail ross@seniorsoftball.com. Itineraries are available on www.seniorsoftball.com.

The Taiwan team celebrates during an international teams banquet in 2009. They are hosting the 2016 Pacific Rim Championships.



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Play in Exotic Taiwan for America in the 4th Annual Pacific Rim Championships!!!!



**Senior Softball-USA
presents
Pacific Rim / Taiwan Tour
Oct. 17- 25, 2016
4th Annual Pacific Rim
Championships**

Join us for the 4th Annual Pacific Rim Championships against teams from Japan, China and Taiwan!

The Taiwan Softball Association has invited Senior Softball USA to participate in the 4th Annual Pacific Rim Championships in Taiwan on Oct. 22-23. Teams from Taiwan, Japan and China are expected to compete.

The US Teams will depart for the friendship games on Oct. 17 and return Oct. 25. Any SSUSA registered player is eligible to participate in this chance to plan internationally, meet players, and experience the beauty of Taiwan.

All players who have participated in previous SSUSA International



Tours, including the games in Las Vegas last year, will receive a \$100 discount on the price.

This inclusive 8-day Tour includes most meals, tour entries, hotels, bus transportation, tournament costs, translators, tour guides and uniforms.

Go to https://seniorsoftball.com/multimedia/sign_up_packet_new_players_-_taiwan.pdf for full itinerary and cost.

Experience Germany and Austria in 2017 with Senior Softball USA!

Save the dates for a trip of a lifetime from June 22 to July 4, 2017 to Germany and Austria. Play in tournaments in Munich and Vienna....and see beautiful Bavaria, Mad Ludwig's storybook castle, Innsbruck, Hitler's Eagle's Nest, Melk Abbey, Salzburg and Vienna!
Complete itinerary and cost will be coming out this month (June).

**For information on either tour please contact Ross McCulligan at
Ross@SeniorSoftball.com, or call 916-326-5303 for more information.**

A Real Dessert to Die For - Almost

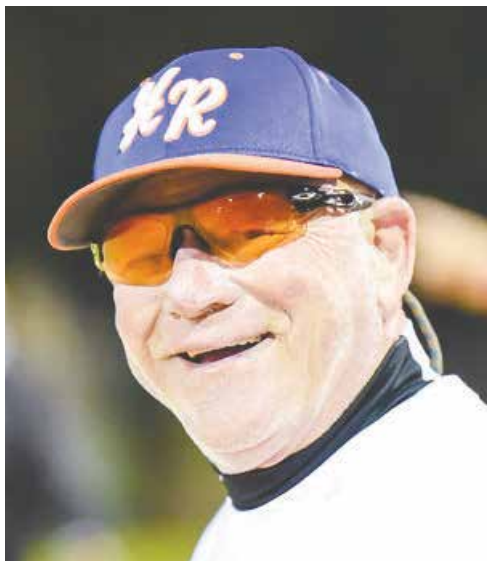
By Audie Hollis

My best friend Ed Rose is a high-energy driven individual who has been playing senior softball for 19 years. He's achieved numerous notable accomplishments. He is in the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame, he has written five books, and he owns several businesses, but he is best known as a man who loves to eat dessert.

Recently Ed attended his military high school's 50th class reunion and had a great time seeing his old buds and reliving some good times. After dinner was served he commented on his severe sweet tooth and how much he loved dessert.

One of his classmates from Colorado took note of this and eagerly offered, "I'm going to send you some dessert that I think will knock your socks off!"

Weeks later, a truck driver delivered a large, tightly wrapped package for Ed on a Thursday afternoon. He noticed it was from his Colorado classmate and immediately opened the package to find a delectable assortment of candies.



A lively Ed Rose

He eagerly sat down in his chair to watch TV and proceeded to delve into the dessert. My buddy is noted for not just eating dessert like a normal human being but attacking it like a starving stray dog. He gave no regard to what the doctors told him about losing weight, and Ed ate not

one, but all 25 of the candies in a matter of minutes.

Moments later his head began spinning and he tried to lumber out of his chair, but he completely lost control, and fell flat on his face as his mind began to race.

Was he having a heart attack? Should he have listened to the doctors?

In his mind it was obvious that he was having a heart attack as he couldn't control his body and he felt his heart was racing while the room continued spinning faster and faster. Ed yelled out to his housekeeper for help and to get his wife, but unfortunately his wife was out shopping. He desperately requested his housekeeper to call 911 as he prepared to draw his last breath lying on the living room floor.

In a matter of minutes Ed could hear the sirens of the approaching rescue unit and the voices of three rescue personnel as he lay on the floor with his eyes closed and his mind spinning.

The lead tech said, "I think the old codger had a heart attack."

One of the other techs immediately retorted, "I don't think so that's my old coach and he's as tough as nails!"

The third tech took his blood pressure and said, "Guys, his blood pressure and heart rate are perfect! I don't think he's had a hard attack or stroke. Look at his pupils and bloodshot eyes, I think he's on a drug trip!"

Sure enough, the Colorado candies were laced with very potent THC, which is a derivative of marijuana, and the servings he ate were enough to kill a horse. The paramedics hung around until he was stabilized and his wife returned.

For the next day my buddy was still high as a kite as he basically slept all day and could hardly walk without falling down. Recalling the events to me Ed said, "It was the first time I took a trip and never left home!"

Audie Hollis is manager/player of Hollis Appraisals 60 Major-Plus team and has been voted into the SSUSA International Hall of Fame.

Chen: Softball Transcending Borders

Continued from Page 15

confidences, won high respects, gave strength, power, and a positive message to all.

I had also noticed the colorful and stylish uniforms, which are varied and graceful, carrying geographic culture, reflecting the players enjoyment of the sport and the fashion.

I noticed that Terry Hennessy walked to every playing field to talk with the players and always received a warm welcome and hugs. He has created a great family of players and fans, filled with love.

Beginning in 2013, SSUSA brought slowpitch softball to Asia, to China,

Taiwan, Japan _ and with it they brought the independent and healthy life of American culture to our part of the world.

In my opinion, I believe that the United States, not only has built top class sciences, but also the most shinny and healthy life styles for all Americans.

Thank you Mr. Hennessy and thanks lot to SSUSA. I'll bring the beauty of the slowpitch softball sport spirits to the people of China.

Zhaoli Chen is Executive Director of the Pacific Rim Association, and a charter member from China.



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Reno Rocks With 200 Teams

Oldest Senior Qualifier Turns 29

RENO / SPARKS / CARSON CITY, Nev. – The 29th annual Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup, the second largest SSUSA Tournament of the year, as well as the largest and oldest senior qualifier, was held across four parks (Golden Eagle Regional Park, Reno Softball Complex at Rancho San Rafael, Shadow Mountain Softball Complex and Centennial Park Softball Complex in Carson City) over nine days with 200 teams in attendance.

Session one of the tournament (May 27-29) featured the Men's 40's and 60's divisions, as well as all of the Women's divisions.

Session two (May 31-June 2) followed with the Men's 65's, 70's, 75's and



A Horn player is tagged out by Hawaii 808. Horn won the 50/55 AA division.



Reno City Councilman David Bobzien throws out the first pitch of Reno's Second Session.

80's divisions; while the tournament concluded with the third and final session (June 3-5) with the Men's 50's and 55's divisions.

In total, 32 teams (listed below) secured an invitation to the original Tournament of Champions (TOC) in February, 2017.

Dudley/Prestige (CA) - MEN'S 40-MASTERS MAJOR PLUS, Layer Cake Wines/Dudley/Elite Sports USA (CA) - MEN'S 40-MASTERS MAJOR, Sommerville Softball (CA) - MEN'S 50-MAJOR PLUS, NorCal Warriors (CA) - MEN'S 50-MAJOR, Mc U

Please See Page 24

Photos by Jack Eberhard



Dean Perkins, center, is congratulated by the team he founded, (Redwood City Chiefs), who won the 80AAA.



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Photo by Jack Eberhard

A Record number of women's teams competed in Reno, with divisions ranging from 40 to 70 years old.

Reno: Touching Memorial for Raula Turnier

Continued from Page 23

Sports (ID) - MEN'S 50-AAA, Horn Softball 50 (CA) - MEN'S 50/55-AA, Summy's 55 (CA) - MEN'S 55-MAJOR PLUS, D&K Tradition (NV) - MEN'S 55-MAJOR, Sidewinders 55's (AZ) - MEN'S 55-AAA, Old Dawgs 60 (CA) - MEN'S 60-MAJOR PLUS, Last Call (NV) - MEN'S 60-MAJOR, Bulldogs 60's (OR) - MEN'S 60-AAA, Makua Alii (HI) - MEN'S 60-AA, Timberworks Construction (CA) - MEN'S 65-MAJOR PLUS, Animals (CA) - MEN'S 65-MAJOR, Sims 65 (WA) - MEN'S 65-AAA, Texas Lone Stars - MEN'S 65-AA, Scrap Iron 70 Legacy (CO) - MEN'S 70-MAJOR PLUS, Tharaldson's (NV) - MEN'S 70-MAJOR, The Zone 70's (UT) - MEN'S 70-AAA, Solano Senior Enforcers (CA) - MEN'S

70-AA, San Francisco Seals 75 (CA) - MEN'S 75-MAJOR PLUS, State Roofing Systems (CA) - MEN'S 75-MAJOR, Lincoln Hills Coyotes (CA) - MEN'S 75-AAA, Fairway Ford (CA) - MEN'S 80-MAJOR, Redwood City Chiefs (CA) - MEN'S 80-AAA, Old School 40's (CA) - WOMEN'S 40-MASTERS MAJOR, Smack That (CA) - WOMEN'S 40-MASTERS AAA, Arizona Dream Team - WOMEN'S 50+ DIVISION, Ladies Choice 55 (CA) - WOMEN'S 55+ DIVISION, California Spirit 60 - WOMEN'S 60+ DIVISION, Ye Olde Bats (NV) - WOMEN'S 65/70+ DIVISION

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Camille Lopez led the memorial for her sister, long-time softball player Raula Turnier, at Shadow Mountain for a packed stand of women's teams. Lopez danced a traditional hula and sent balloons loose in a touching ceremony.



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Reno All Tourney Players Selected

2016 SSUSA Rock 'n Reno All Tournament Players:

Men's 40 Major-Plus: **GTS:**
Brian Fong, Chris Hoshaw,
Trevor Jones, Brendt Newbill;

Men's 50 Major: **Nor Cal
Warriors:** Al Becker, Bob Gate-
house, John Gibbs, Gary Hoff-
man, Paul Supat, Paul Wise

Men's 50/55AA: **808 Ha-
waii:** Mike Baker, Cam Kah-
anamoku, Paul Muenster, Brian
Viola

Men's 55AAA: **Sidewind-
ers:** Larry Beamer, Ken Johnson,
Kerry Krueger, King Ott, Tom
Petrizzio; **Colorado Home Fit-
ness:** Steve Antonczyk, Lance
Brewer, Dan Silvey, Jeff Tyler

Men's 55 Major: **Change
the Mascot:** Wayne Doty, Don
Owens, Glen Shipley

Men's 60 Major-Plus: **Old
Dawgs:** Chris Dayak, Steve
Grimm, Steve Hillman, Dan
Kibbe, Artie Tressler; **Goodman
Racing:** Steve Humphries, Lynn
Hover, George Stormo

Men's 60 Major: **No Dice:**
Jerry Amato, Len Meinecke,
Bruce Sanchez

Men's 60AAA: **Bulldogs:**
Tim Barrier, Jeff Johnson, Russ
Peters, Bill Taylor, Robert Webb;
Second Wind Softball: Mike
Aries, Keith Keese, Steve Leal,
Bill McCommack; **Scrap Iron
High Octane:** Nick Longo, Jim
Portz, Michael Whitlow

Men's 60AA: **Makua Ali'i:**
Bob Durlington, Al Gaea, Paul
Kim, Glenn Morihara, Charlie
Peterson; **Out of Storage:** Mi-
chael Duggan, Orvin Heidinger,
Robert Standley, David Wolfe

Men's 65 Major-Plus: **Tim-
berworks Construction:** Jeff
Hacker, Steve Hillman, George
Robinson, Doak Whitley

Men's 65 Major: **San Anto-
nio Silver Streaks:** Mel Colwell,
Mingo Garcia, Richard Kielholz,
Julian Tamez;

Men's 65AAA: **Sims 65:**
Ken Albert, Jeff Chin, Joe Col-
lins, Joe Dorage, Glen Gubbe

Men's 65AA: **Texas Lon-
estars:** Bobby Canamar, Bob
Divo, Joe Flores, Larry Regallo,

CELEBRATED 2016 EVENTS

Let's face it. Every destination claims to have great special events, but Reno Tahoe USA has oodles of *EXTRAORDINARY* special events. Here are a dozen celebrated 2016 events that make our destination notorious for guaranteeing a great time. Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg! Check out **VisitRenoTahoe.com** and discover more reasons to plan your next trip.



May 26-Jun 5

Jun 16-25

Jun 27-Jul 3

Jun 30-Jul 31

Jul 8-Aug 21

Aug 2-7

Aug 28-Sep 5

Aug 31-Sep 5

Sep 9-11

Sep 14-18

Sep 21-25

Rock-N-Reno 2016

Reno Rodeo

**Barracuda Championship,
PGA TOUR Golf Tournament**

Artown

Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival

Hot August Nights

Burning Man

Best in the West Nugget

Rib Cook-off

The Great Reno Balloon Race

National Championship

Air Races

Street Vibrations Fall Rally



VisitRenoTahoe.com

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Jim Davis Left His Mark on Senior Softball

Softball News Report

Jim Davis, a longtime supporter of Senior Softball-USA, died at age 85 on March 24.

Davis' life is an American classic, filled with adventure, tragedy and heroics. Born in a tiny rural east Tennessee town in the depths of the Depression, Jim's mother died of tuberculosis when he was just 7 years old. He, along with his two brothers and sister, was sent to live with his grandmother while his father continued to work to support them.

When he was 17, Jim and his best friend, Jackie Swope, decided to enlist in the Marines because they wanted to see the world outside their small town—and they liked the dapper dress uniforms. They got their parents' signatures, but were sent to different training facilities.

Jim ended up in Guam and a year and a half later the Korean War broke out. Jim was assigned to the 1st Provisional Marine brigade and arrived



Jim Davis

in the port of Pusan, while it was being besieged by North Korean forces. Jim served as a Sherman tank crewman in every major battle of the war, including the Pusan Perimeter, the Naktong Bulge, Inchon, Seoul, and the Chosin Reservoir. He returned home with medals, and with the devastating news that his best friend – who he had not seen since they enlisted – had been killed in battle.

Jim left east Tennessee for Los Angeles, where he met and became fast friends with the future founder of Senior Softball USA, Bob Mitchell while both worked for the California High-

way Patrol. Much of the action during those days was rich fodder for the hugely successful television show "CHIPS."

After a few years, Jim left the Highway Patrol seeking a job with better pay – and found it in the insurance industry. Over the ensuing decades he helped found and built National Certified Insurance, one of the major insurance brokers in California.

Later, when Mitchell founded SSUSA, Davis stepped in to help with the insurance coverage for the sport.

"Jim has been a force in the sport and in our lives at Senior Softball-USA for many years," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer, "and, most important, he was a good friend."

Jim also was a sponsor and player of NCI Softball Club for 10 years.

"Jim was a great man known for his charity work," said John Crawford, who played and managed on the NCI teams.

"For anyone that has stepped on the ball field in Southern California, the name Jim Davis and NCI resonated through all of the dugouts," said Kevin Evans of Top Gun Softball on the SSUSA message board. "He was a fierce competitor and did not accept second place. I enjoyed competing against his teams as he recruited some of the finest softball talent in the regions. Jim will always be remembered for raising senior softball to new heights in SoCal."

Co-Sanctioned ISA/SSUSA Southeast Championships A Winner in Gallatin

Softball News Report

GALLATIN, Tenn. – Fifteen teams ranging from Kentucky, Illinois, Florida, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio met at Triple Creek Park for the 2016 ISA/SSUSA Southeast Championships during the weekend of June 3-5.

In this combined tournament between ISA and

SSUSA, four TOC bids were handed out to well deserving teams. The winners included Old Style/ASP Nation (50/55 Gold), DT Express (55/60 Gold), Cincinnati 60's (60AAA) and Doc Martens/Ropes Courses (60/65 Silver).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

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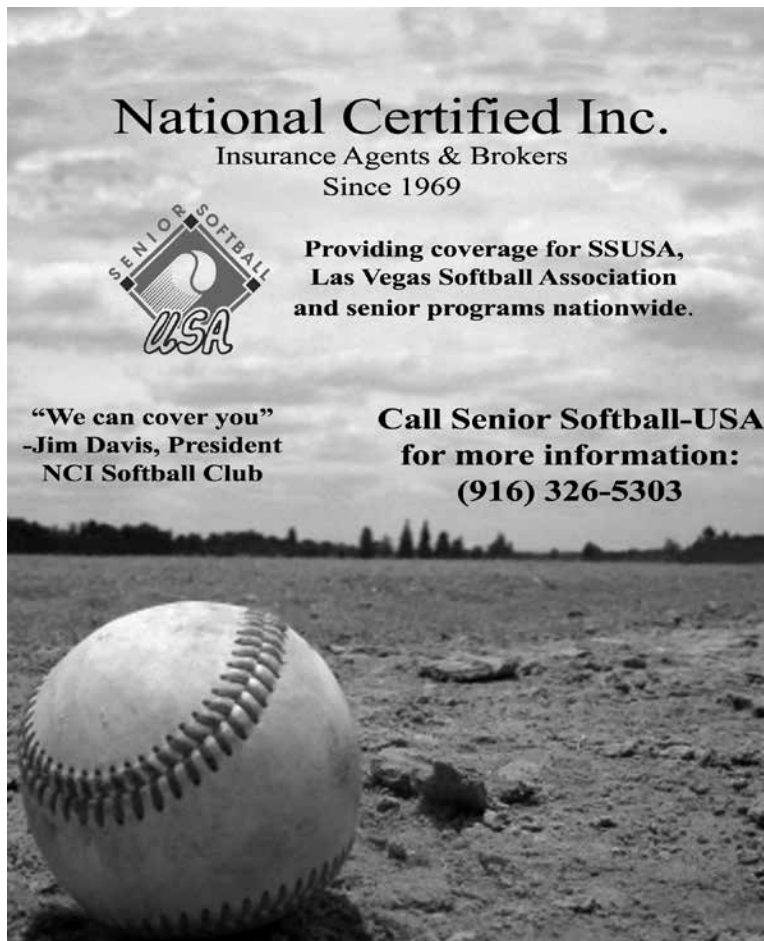
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2016 Atlantic Coast Championships Draws Record 84 Teams

Softball News Report

LOUNDOWN COUNTY, VA – The

10th annual Atlantic Coast Championships drew a record 84 teams here May 10-15, making it one of the largest qualifiers east of the Mississippi River. Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park and Potomack Lakes Sportsplex played host to the ACC.

There were a number of teams from outside the Atlantic region, with states such as Colorado, Arizona, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Florida being well represented along with the usual suspects from Virginia, Maryland and the Northeast.

Twelve TOC Bids were earned at the



Atlantic Coast. The winning teams were Motown Magic Bachelors (Women's 40), Team USA (40/50 Platinum), Elmwood Sports Center (40/50 Gold), Roadhouse Blues (50AAA), Jackson Merchants (50/55 Silver), Omega IT Services (55 Platinum), Spring Ford (60 Silver), JG Drywall (60 Major), High Street Bucs (65 Platinum), Athletic Outlet/Travato (65AAA), Bostonian 70's (70AAA), Pittsburgh Gold (75 Gold).

For complete division wrap-ups, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Reno All Tourney Players Continued

Continued from Page 25

Joe Trevino; **Sacramento Buds**: Pat Morrison, Frank Newcross, Bob Nishimoto, Tosh Ohara

Men's 70 Major-Plus: **Scrap Iron 70 Legacy**: Rick Buckland, Don Carpenter, Bob Huff, Bob Ross, Stan Suichta; **W.E. Ruth Realty**: Ralph Knudsen, Lee Trope, Fred White

Men's 70AAA: **Silver Sox**: Jon Arem, Dave Meyers, Larry Wagenbach

Men's 70AA: **Solano Senior Enforcers**: Richard Bourcier, Wille Elder, Hershell Hamilton, Ron Harris, Ed Palacio; **Magic Stuff**: Scott Cragun, Phil Feiock, Doyle Neuenswander

Men's 75 Major-Plus: **San Francisco Seals**: Lynn Anglin, Herb Epple, LeRoy Gallardo, Argie Haddock, Mike Leither; **PDR Fastsigns**: John Fournier, Tom Imming, Marv Rueck, Jan Wolcott

Men's 75 Major: **State Roofing Systems**: John Dyer, Bob Eddy, Rey Garcia, Gil Jess, Dennie Logie

Men's 75AAA: **Lincoln Hills Coyotes**: George Bungarz, Virgil Dahl, Bob Hunter, Larry Manley, Jim Mikaelsen; **Slammers**: Kent Draayer, Larry King, Bill Weaver

Atlantic Coast Championships All Tourney Players Named

2016 Atlantic Coast Championships All Tournament Players:

Men's 40/50 Platinum: **Team USA**: Mike Allegretti, Mike Dill, Ernie Donaldson, Charles Smith, Jay Tapman

Men's 40/50 Gold: **Elmwood Sports Center**: David Anderson, John Kilcoyne, Humberto Montalban, Bob Sobolisky, George Troupe; **BH Maintenance**: Kenny Akers, John Brown, Jeff Cesenaro, Kelly Woolf;

Men's 50AAA: **Roadhouse Blues**: Gene Belanger, Mark Iorio, Rich Kaminski, Clair Kibler, Jeff Rowe; **Central Penn Cave-man Softball**: Bryan Kratzer, Scott Linn, Luke Melhorn; **Team 757**: Maurice Dawson, Adrian Dixon, Barry Gray, George Shelby

Men's 50/55 Silver: **Jackson Merchants**: Jerry Cox, Robert Johnson, Chris Rankin, Doug Reska, Jeff Toburen

Men's 55 Platinum: **Florida Automated Shade 55**: Jeff Farney, Kurt Musial, Jimmy Nelson, Joe Varacchi Jr.; **Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder**: Jack Donnelly, Chris McTigue, Michael Mouton

Men's 60 Major: **JG Drywall**: Ricky Catalogna, James Daley, Jim Jones, John Moore, Mike Wingard; **Promotion Softball**: Bill Linnehan, Mike Menzer, Dave Szwec

Men's 60 Silver: **Spring Ford**: Bob DiCarlo, Benn Miller, Tom Schwalm, Joe Sharp, Bob Woody; **Syracuse Cyclones**: John Dziura, Gary Lasko, Jim Ranucci

Men's 65 Platinum: **High Street Bucs**: Jesse Bare, Larry Householder, Bill Macuch, Bill Redman, Frank Scotto; **HermTech**: Dave Hawkins, Jeff Hitt, Frank O'Neill, Tom Tashea; **Hamel Builders/Superior Senior Softball**: Danny Ballard, Phil Biedronski, John Davide

Men's 65AAA: **Syracuse Cyclones**: Bob Darnell, Paul Ibert, Steve Johnson

Men's 70AAA: **Bostonian 70's**: Ed Finnegan, Dave Joseph, Ray LePage, Tom Nicholson, Mike Russillo, Ted Wess; **Ed Hamels**: Herb Ballard, Lou Lussi, Gary Krause, Geno Pinkney

Men's 75 Gold: **Pittsburgh Gold**: Ray Grove, Walter Hunter, Jack Leone, Ed Morrison, Ray Worrell; **Bailey Talent Cavaliers**: Joe Johnson, John Medford, Bruce Remick



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