

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 10

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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To: Info At Senior Softball <info@SeniorSoftball.com>



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May 27, 2020 - In This Issue:

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OBITUARIES - 5/27/20



Flashback to the 2018 Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup: No social distancing required for Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder. The 33rd Annual Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup, originally scheduled to take place this week, was cancelled due to the current pandemic.

From the Dugout: Delicate Balance in Reopening Sport



By Terry Hennessy
SSUSA CEO

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) is pleased to be featured in this week's edition of Time Magazine (*'I'm Anxious to Get Out and Compete.'* *Senior Citizens Still Plan to Play in Travel Softball Tournaments During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, written

SSUSA/ISA Hall of Fame Director, Jerry Jackson, 73, Dies



Jerry D. Jackson (1946 - 2020)

The sometimes-gruff exterior of Hall of Fame Director Jerry Jackson hid his empathetic nature – but not his strong belief

by Sean Gregory – Senior Editor/Senior Sports Correspondent TIME).

I'd like to address the financial issue that was raised in the story.

Deciding to re-open our sport isn't "all about the money" for any Senior Softball organization.

It about an impossible balance that faces every sport and business in the United States today.

On the one hand, there are medical professionals who would like everyone – especially seniors – to stay away from any type of crowd until there are vaccines or treatments or a national testing system that ensures they are safe.

On the other hand, there are the economists who warn that extended lockdowns may throw the country into another Great Depression for several years to come.

In the middle are policy makers – those folks who must balance these two diametrically opposed views when deciding when to re-open – and how. That is true in sports and all other businesses today.

And there is no clear answer.

Senior Softball-USA's position (and all other national softball organizations, for that matter) has been to develop new standards based on CDC and WHO guidelines to make the sport as safe as possible when local officials decide it is OK to play on the fields.

Is money part of the equation? Yes, of course. SSUSA revenue supports employees, umpires and directors throughout the country.

In addition, SSUSA infuses more than \$164 million a year into the communities in which we hold tournaments every year. That equates to jobs in hotels, restaurants, travel, and shopping in the 90 cities in which we hold tournaments.

It is small considering other major industries, but it means continued jobs for

in creating a fair playing field for softball teams and players.

It is thus with a great deal of sadness that Senior Softball USA announces the passing of Jerry Jackson, 73, of Perkin, Ill. Jackson died on May 22 following a long battle with cancer.

Jerry's wife, Amy perhaps said it best: "As you know, Jerry loved all of his softball family. Adult softball was his life. I know that he could be rough at times, LOL, but he was that way so that things were fair for each player and team.

"He didn't mince words, and told it like it was," said Amy. "After reading the numerous Facebook comments I've received, it's clear to me that the softball community was happy with the way he got things done, for them, and for the game. Of course, they did comment on how he could piss you off, but in the next sentence, they wrote how much they respected him and thanked him for all the hard work he has done all these years."

Jerry Jackson's involvement with the game of softball spans nearly five decades, beginning as an umpire in the early 1970s.

Jackson ran his first tournament in Central Illinois in 1981 and later became a Masters National Director with USSSA in 1993, getting his start in senior softball.

A few years later, in 1995, Jackson began his long relationship with SSUSA. He came to the World Championships in Kansas City to get some tips on the senior game from SSUSA founder Bob Mitchell. That dialogue set the stage for talks between all national softball associations in the first Senior Softball Summit in 1999.

"I've known and respected Jerry since the mid-90s, when my team played in his USSSA Senior tournaments," said Bill Ruth, president of both SSUSA and the Independent Sports Association. "That respect turned into a deep personal friendship, as Jerry joined the ISA board and became a national director for SSUSA."

As a SSUSA National Director and member of the Independent Sports Association Board of Directors, Jackson was an influential figure in the game. He was involved in developing a number of key policies, including the idea of regions, that are still in place today.

"Jerry was a voice of reason and wisdom during the Senior Softball Summits," said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of SSUSA. "He became a close personal friend and we were all overjoyed when he joined SSUSA and ISA in 2000."

Mike Caldwell, ISA chief executive, said: "Jerry was a great friend and mentor. He loved the game of softball, and was

scores of families in those cities.

This does NOT mean we don't care about the health concerns.

That is why we have developed guidelines to make the sport as safe as possible once we are able to play again.

Is this a perfect system that ensures no one will contract the COVID-19 virus at tournaments, or in any group?

Again, the answer is no. To be clear, there is a danger during this pandemic – until there is a vaccine or effective treatment developed – that players could contract the virus.

Every player – and their families – must decide if they want to play knowing the potential risks.

I won't sugar-coat the situation you all face. Just know I am 68 and I play and I face the same situation. My family is not crazy about the fact that I will play. But it is my decision because I believe the steps we are taking will make the sport safer during a very uncertain time.

You need to make your own decision knowing the facts and the risks.

SSUSA intends to be here after the pandemic runs its course – and I hope to see you on the field when you feel it is right for you.

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

Louisville Slugger: Long Live the Long Ball

In our continuing series of SSUSA sponsors, this week we highlight Louisville Slugger.

Louisville Slugger has been synonymous with America's pastime for more than 135 years, and that history continues to evolve into the senior game with the **2020 CUZ**

always looking for ways to make it a fun experience for all that played. Jerry was one of the owners of ISA, served on the President's Council, was the National Senior Program Director, and the Northern Region VP. He will be greatly missed."

"I will miss Jerry, as he was such a good friend," added Fran Dowell, executive director, SSUSA. "Jerry was a mentor to me all the way through, as he was to so many. I learned a lot from him over the years and I will always hold him very near to my heart."

He also mentored Tim McElroy, an SSUSA National Director and ISA vice president in the eastern region - state director, Maryland: "I met Jerry shortly after becoming a director for ISA and SSUSA in 2002," said McElroy. "He was mentor to me over the years. Jerry had a knack for understanding what was needed and when. Sometimes he gave a fiery butt chewing and other times a supportive ear. I am a better director because of Jerry Jackson. Rest easy my friend."

Jackson has annually run the ISA Senior World Series, an SSUSA TOC qualifier, and for years was the face of SSUSA as director of the Winter National Championships in Ft. Myers, FL., one of the largest senior tournaments east of the Mississippi River.

For his efforts and influence in directing hundreds of senior tournaments, Jackson was inducted into the ISA Hall of Fame in 2013 and the SSUSA Hall of Fame in 2014.

Jerry's wife, Amy will be carrying on for Jerry as a director of the ISA Senior Worlds this year.

"My family and I would like to thank EVERYONE for all the thoughts and prayers you have extended since Jerry passed," said Amy Jackson. "We appreciate the kindness. He will be greatly missed, but he just couldn't fight the fight any longer. We were able to be with him in the hospital that day, and he knew all of us. That was such a comforting feeling that he knew how much we all loved him. Think of him when you step on the field this year. He will be watching."

Jackson is survived by Amy, son Joel, daughter Brooke, and two grandsons Tristan and Hayden.

Power Load Senior Slowpitch Bat.



Louisville Slugger states you'll bust out your best bat flips with the 2020 CUZ that comes game-ready from the first swing. The bat is designed with an LS-X composite barrel, as well as a power-loaded design to give hitters an extra half-ounce weight in the barrel.

Players, be sure to take advantage of the following 25% discount from Louisville Slugger (code: **SLUGGER20SP** - good until 12/31/2020).

For more information, be sure to visit Louisville Slugger online.

Meet SSUSA's New Jostens Rep – Karen Hofstad



Hello SSUSA Players,

I would like to take a moment of your time



Jerry Jackson at the 2010 Winter National Championships

Tournament Updates: Florida, Missouri, and New Mexico Move Ahead; Cancellations in Washington and Arizona



In an exciting break for the sport in Florida, Tournament Director Tim McElroy, says he fully expects the Sunshine State Showdown on June 19 - 21, to be played. McElroy has been in regular contact with Lee County officials in Ft. Myers.

Entries for the tournament are ahead of last year's pace, so teams looking to get in should register soon. Deadline is June 4. Please contact Tim McElroy via email, PotomacSports1@gmail.com or phone 301-514-2676 if you are interested in attending this qualifier.

Another tournament that continues to show promise is the Missouri Open, June 4-14, which was featured in the **TIME Magazine** article. The tournament has 61 teams registered

and introduce myself.

My name is Karen Hofstad and I am your interim sales representative at Jostens. For the past two years, I have been working in Championship Sales and look forward working with you. I have communicated with many of the players in my time already and I hope to see you at upcoming tournaments.

As a way to introduce myself, Jostens and I would like to offer you an **\$80.00 discount** off the price of any Senior Softball-USA ring until **June 30th, 2020**.

To place an order or have an order form emailed to you, please email me at: karen.hofstad@jostens.com. I can also be reached by phone (507) 455-6533 or fax (507) 455-6667.



Karen Hofstad
Jostens Championship Sales

OBITUARIES - 5/27/20



William Robert Colt, Sr.

William Colt, 67, of San Bernardino, Calif. died on May 2.

to participate. Officials from the Rainbow Softball Complex have submitted a proposal to the City of Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services for event approval. A final decision is expected May 29. Officials have stated they'd be very surprised if the tournament is not allowed.

To hopefully satisfy the growing appetite of many teams looking to get back out on the field, SSUSA has added Men's 40's through 60's age divisions to the Western Classic in Las Cruces, NM - June 27 - 28. The tournament was originally slated as a Women's only event.

Although some tournaments are getting the green light, others have recently had to be cancelled:

Tournament Director Rick Seifman has cancelled his June tournaments in Arizona (Mountain Madness I and 40s Cool Country Classic I), as those host cities have not yet opened for adult tournaments.

Tournament Director Butch Jones has cancelled the Northwest Cup in Washington.

SSUSA once again thanks all of the parks departments for their diligent work in helping senior softball return to the fields.

As a reminder, SSUSA will be determining the status of upcoming tournaments two weeks prior to the scheduled start date of each respective tournament.

The two weeks are needed so that SSUSA and teams can prepare for the tournaments.

Many states, counties, and cities are continuing through their respective phases of re-opening. We thank all our players and teams for their continued patience as we work to bring the sport back.

As SSUSA continues to work with our regional directors, cities, and complexes as we strive to bring the sport back as soon and as safe as it is to do so, we are beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel in some parts of the country.

STATE-BY-STATE BREAKDOWN

Here is where SSUSA tournaments, scheduled through the end of July, currently stand.

Missouri - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/3

June 4 - 14: Missouri Open Columbia, MO

The Missouri Open remains on as scheduled.

For more information on the Missouri Open, please contact Will Rogers, via email: willsharkdaddy@aol.com or phone: 816-916-7891.

Maryland - Stay-at-Home Order Expired May 15

June 12 - 16: The Old Line State Showdown Westminster,

Colt last played in SSUSA in 2017 with No Excuses 50. He was also a member of Sugamele Golf 50 from 2013-2015.

"Billy played for numerous teams throughout his life," said Paul Fletcher, who managed No Excuses, and also played on Sugamele Golf. "If you were one of the lucky ones to have had the pleasure of having him on your team, then you would know what kind of spitfire he was. If you didn't throw straight, he'd say 'you couldn't hit an elephant in the butt with a hand full of rice'. Billy was not just a teammate, he was family. He would have given the shirt right off his back to help you. You will always be our Most Valuable Player. We love you Billy. You will be dearly missed."



Glenn Thompson

Glenn Thompson, 65, of Mira Loma, Calif. died on May 25.

Thompson had a long-time affiliation with Team Braves 40, and was most recently affiliated with Stadium 50 for the past two seasons. He's also been a member of Reloaded 60 and Old Guys Rule 40.

Kevin Bourgeois, a former member of Team Braves, broke news of Thompson's passing on the SSUSA message board. "We lost a good man, coach, and father," said Bourgeois. "For those of you that did or did not know Glenn Thompson, he was a great ambassador to the game of softball and he loved it more than life. I met him about 14 years ago when he joined the 40's Braves team as a coach/sponsor. He took us all under his wing and made sure

MD (PENDING)*

*An alternate location is still currently being searched for the Old Line State Showdown, June 12-16, scheduled in Westminster. Stay tuned for updates.

July 17 - 20: Bert Bennett Memorial Westminster, MD

The Bert Bennett Memorial remains on as scheduled.

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

Arizona - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/15

June 13 - 14: Mountain Madness I Flagstaff, AZ (CANCELLED)

June 20 - 21: 40s Cool Country Classic I Prescott, AZ (CANCELLED)

July 15 - 19: Ernie Jones Memorial/Western States Championships Prescott, AZ (Updated Dates of Play)

July 25 - 26: 40s Mountain Madness II Flagstaff, AZ

The Ernie Jones Memorial/Western States Championships remains on as scheduled, with some date changes. The Men's 70 - 80 Divisions will now be a three-day format, July 15 - 17.

The 40s Mountain Madness in July also remains on as scheduled.

For more information, please contact tournament director Rick Seifman, via email: tournsport@aol.com or phone: 623-776-2143.

California - No end date on Stay-at-Home Order, Indefinite

June 12 - 17: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Sacramento/Placer Counties, CA

June 16 - 21: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS Hemet & Cathedral City, CA/Yuma, AZ

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

These three TOC qualifiers remain on as scheduled.

A final decision on the Northern California State Championships will be made May 29.

The Southern California State Championships will be confirmed next week.

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

SSUSA will confirm that these tournaments will be played two weeks before they are scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Washington - Stay-at-Home Order Through 5/31

June 13 - 14: Northwest Cup Lacey, WA (CANCELLED)

June 25 - 28: Inland Empire Classic Spokane, WA

July 25 - 26: Smash It Sports Invite Enumclaw, WA

The Inland Empire Classic and Smash It Sports Invite remain on as scheduled.

For more information on the Spokane tournaments please contact Washington State Director Butch Jones, via email: kattstang7@gmail.com or phone: 360-791-3862.

For more information on the tournament in Enumclaw,

we all enjoyed what we all loved...SOFTBALL."

Others added their condolences, including Dennis Silveria, manager of Advil Knights.

"Glenn was an outstanding person," said Silveria. "He was always positive in any situation. He gave advice without anything in return. He loved the game, the players whether you were on his team or against his team. I will always remember his smile while you were talking to him about softball. Always had good to say about everything. Glenn, I will miss the phone conversations we had."



Doak L. Thomas

Doak Thomas, 73, of Austin, Tex. died on May 26.

Thomas was a long-time member of SSUSA beginning in the 50s division in the late 90s. He last played SSUSA in 2018 with San Antonio Silver Streaks 70. Doak spent the majority of his time as a member of CenTex 65.

The news of Thomas' death was also posted on the SSUSA message board.

"Doak was a good friend," said Gary Bowles, manager of CenTex 70. "We started out as Dirty Old Men in our first ever senior softball tournament as 50-year-olds. We've been playing together through the years. As Tanel, we won many tournaments, and now as CenTex 70s. That is a pretty good run. He enjoyed his softball family and his 'oldies' music."

please contact director Tom Israelson (206-841-9955 or israelson@comcast.net)

Oklahoma - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 4/30

June 18 - 21: Oil City Classic Tulsa, OK

The Oil City Classic remains on as scheduled.

For more information, please contact tournament director Will Rogers, via email: willsharkdaddy@aol.com or phone: 816-916-7891.

Florida - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/4

June 19 - June 21: Sunshine State Showdown Ft. Myers, FL

The Sunshine State Showdown remains on as scheduled.

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

Michigan - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 6/12

June 27 - 28: Holiday Classic Sturgis, MI

July 11 - 12: Bobby Chapp Memorial Lansing, MI (NEW DATES)

These Michigan tournaments remain on as scheduled.

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

New Mexico - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/31

June 27 - 28: Western Classic Las Cruces, NM*

*Originally scheduled as the Women's Western Classic, SSUSA has added Men's 40 - 60 age divisions.

The tournament remains on as scheduled.

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

New York - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/28

July 7 - 12: NORTHEAST CHAMPIONSHIPS Syracuse, NY

The Northeast Championships remain on a scheduled.

New York continues its re-opening, as the Mid-Hudson and Long Island regions are set to open this week.

Onondaga County (Syracuse) began to reopen May 15, and is expected to enter Phase 2 this week. With each phase scheduled to progress every two weeks, Phase 4 (recreation) should be on track by the end of June.

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Arkansas (Arkansas is one of seven states that never enacted a stay-at-home order)

July 7 - 12: MIDWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Rogers, AR

The Midwest Championships remain on as scheduled.

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Texas - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 4/30

July 7 - 12: Aggieland Classic College Station, TX

The Aggieland Classic remains on as scheduled.

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

Oregon - No End Date on Stay-at-Home Order, Indefinite

July 14 - 19: JIM SHERMAN MEMORIAL/NORTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS Salem, OR

The Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships remain on as scheduled.

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Illinois - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 5/30

July 14 - 19: Quad Cities Classic Rock Island, IL

The Quad Cities Classic remains on as scheduled.

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

Alabama - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 4/30

July 18 - 19: Cullman Qualifier Cullman, AL

The Cullman Qualifier remains on as scheduled.

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Kansas - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/3

July 23 - 26: Wes Weddle Classic Shawnee, KS

The Wes Weddle Classic remains on as scheduled.

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

Virginia - Stay-at-Home Order in Place Through 6/10

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

The Eastern National Championships remain on a scheduled.

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

SSUSA will confirm that this tournament will be played two weeks before it is scheduled to commence. For more information, please email info@seniorsoftball.com.

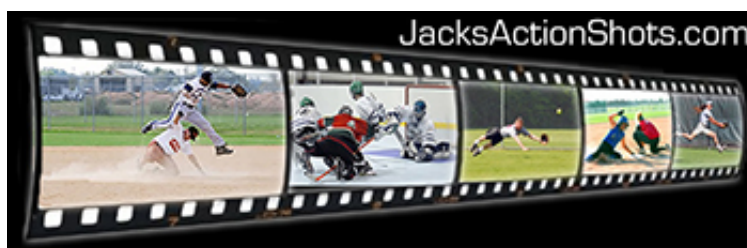
Indiana - Stay-at-Home Order Expired 5/1

July 31 - August 2: ISA SENIOR WORLD SERIES Columbus/Shelbyville, IN

The ISA Senior Worlds Series remains on as scheduled.

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

Download Photos From Jacks Action Shots



SSUSA Photographer Jack Eberhard has opened up some of the recent Senior Softball photo galleries on his website, JacksActionShots.com. The password to access the download is **Ross**.

Be sure to take a look through the recent 2020 TOC, 2019 World Masters Championships, 2019 Rocky Mountain Championships, 2019 Eastern National Championships, and others.

You can contact Jack via phone (303-435-0700) or email (Jacktack@aol.com).

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