

THE BIG EVENT

Excitement Builds for World Masters in Vegas

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – The largest senior softball tournament in the world is expected to blossom into an even larger event here this fall.

The joint Las Vegas Senior Softball Association and Senior Softball-USA World Masters Championships is on track to set another record in 2013.

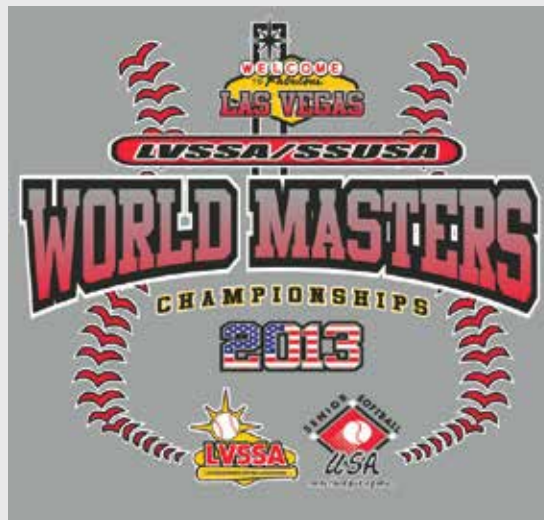
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204 Teams Battle in Reno

By Ross McCulligan Softball News Report

RENO – The 26th annual Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup kicked off another spectacular year with the second largest senior softball event in the country.

The tournament attracted 204 teams and utilized four of the best softball complexes in the west, including Golden Eagle, known for its breathtaking views, pristine turf and second-to-none concessions.

“The 26th annual Rock 'n Reno
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Sacramento Sets Western Record **Page 21**



Raleigh Roars in East **Page 18**



Regional Champs Rock

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ISA Senior Worlds
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Photo by Jack Eberhard

Tharaldson player tagged, but wins 40 Women's Championships.

DEEP THOUGHTS

FROM



Richard "Stump" Andrews
World Famous Ballplayer

Is a great
defensive play
equal to a triple?

Do the shoes
make the player
or the player
make the
shoes?

Is a pulled
hamstring worth
an extra base?

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inning ending DP or a
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NewsBriefing



Steve Simmons Saluted by Teams in Minnesota

LITTLE CANADA, MINN. – The much anticipated, “Salute to Steve Simmons” softball day was finally held on a beautiful Minnesota morning here on August 2nd.

Among those on hand to celebrate Steve’s contributions to senior softball, were his daughter Melissa, and more than 100 of Steve’s friends and teammates, shown above.

“Steve and his dedication to

senior softball will not be forgotten,” said Don Bowman, tournament director of a special combination SPA/SSUSA tournament in memory of Simmons.

At the ceremony, the Simmons family received a plaque from the SSUSA, along with check for over \$4,000 to the Simmons family charity foundation at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis.

“The funds were raised from the Mosquitoland Classic and 10,000 Lakes Qualifiers in Minnesota, along with T-shirt, wristband and bat raffle sales,” said Bowman. “A big thanks go out to those that help organize these events, including Terry Hennessy and the SSUSA staff, Ben Borgen, Doc Hartshorn, Mark Peterson, Gary Bennett, Kevin Zenk, Scott Sanford and many more.”

18th Annual Quad Cities Classic Dodges Tornadoes

Softball News Report

The threat of tornadoes, storms and heavy rains did not deter 37 teams from going to bat in the 18th Quad Cities Classic, Illinois/Iowa’s oldest continuous senior softball tournament.

Up first, were the 75’s and 70’s. In the 75 bracket, Bill Doell’s Chicago

Geezers defeated Bill Klinkenberg’s Antiques of Kansas City, 18-16, in a 10-inning slugfest, and 13-5 in the finals to claim the 75 crown.

The game may have been the tournament’s most exciting. It was well played on both ends, a see-saw affair, with great sportsmanship

exhibited by both teams.

In the 70’s division, six teams laced up their old spikes to do battle.

Tom Spear’s Central 70’s, opened with a win over Lowell Thompson’s Minnesota Masters 26-16. Central slipped in its second game vs. Lenny

Suess’s Silver Sneaker team from St. Louis 14-12.

Central regained its hitting shoes and reeled off three consecutive victories: over Oshkosh 18-15, over Rudy Pribble’s Mid State 70’s 18-11,

Continued on Page 7

Cam Rusch Remembers 70 Years of Softball

Softball News Report

When it comes to playing the game of softball, few if any can match Cam Rusch’s records.

Rusch was introduced to the game back in 1958 and played for the next seven decades until his health made him retire in 2010. Adding it all up, Rusch figures he played 3,000 softball games.

“Growing up all recreational softball was played without gloves back in Harvey, N.D.,” he recalled. “At that time fastpitch was the game and the teams with the best pitching dominated. Later, slow pitch came into our area and liking softball as much as I did, I played slowpitch



Cam Rusch

on Monday and Wednesday and fastpitch on Tuesday and Thursday along with tournaments on weekends.”

He eventually moved on to Fargo, N.D., where there were many leagues and opportunities to play softball. He notes that he was fortunate enough to be on fastpitch Class B team that won the state title.

He gave up fastpitch for slowpitch which gave him the opportunity to play more games and a tournament somewhere just about every weekend. His longest day in softball was an eight-team round-

Continued on Page 22

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In addition, you'll have a chance to see renown sights in London, including the London Bridge, Buckingham Palace, the Changing of the Guard, Tower of London AND in Paris, you'll experience the Eiffel Tower, Louvres, Champs des Ellyses and much, much more.

Plus, of course, you will have a chance to play softball and meet players from England and France. There will be a games and a tournament in London and more games in Paris!

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL SUSAN RUTH AT SUSAN@WERUTH.COM OR CALL 206-930-7091

Tour Normandy on the 70th Anniversary of D-Day

Play a tournament in London and games in Paris



US Team Wins Celtic Classic in Ireland

Softball News Report

DUBLIN, IRELAND – A Senior Softball-USA team won the Celtic Classic here in June, topping nine Irish teams, two other SSUSA teams and a German team.

The Celtic Classic II was part of the 24th Annual Senior SSUSA International Tour in which three teams made up of SSUSA players of all ages from throughout America played in both Ireland and Scotland from June 16-29.

“The games, tour and camaraderie were wonderful,” said Susan Ruth, director of International Sports Holidays and of the tour, “however tragedy struck in Scotland. One of our players, Bill Curry of Massachusetts, suffered a heart attack and died in his hotel room in Edinburgh.”

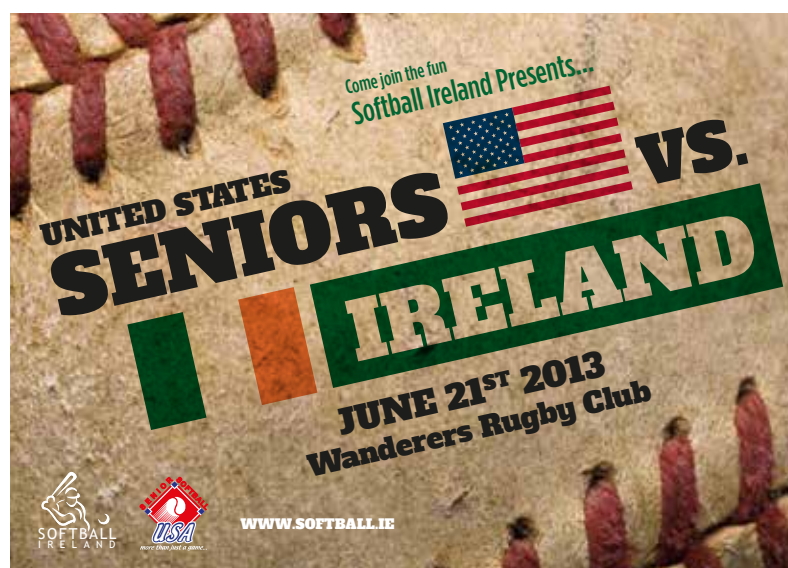
One of Curry’s SSUSA teammates, Jimmy Bratton of California, did CPR on him until the medical personnel arrived, but Curry did not survive (see obituary on this page).

One of the highlights of the tour included a special exhibition game in Dublin to kick off the Celtic Classic II. The game pitted U.S. All Stars against the Irish National team on the Friday evening before the tournament began.

In a prelude to the U.S. game, the Irish National team first defeated the German team on Friday, then went on to defeat the U.S. All Stars 17-14 in the highlight event of the evening.

The Friday games were part of a year-long Irish national celebration called “The Gathering,” designed to highlight events that draw people back to Ireland.

“We are happy to welcome the U.S. senior teams to The Gathering, and look forward to tournament tomorrow,” said Colum Lavery, President of Ireland Softball at



Promotional poster of the game pitting the Irish National Team against US Senior All Stars during the Celtic Classic.

the reception after the game.

The 13 teams competed on six fields during the Celtic Classic II tournament on Saturday, with the USA White team defeating a strong Dublin team in the championship game as raindrops turned into a shower late Saturday.

The Celtic Classic I took place in Dublin in 2003 during the 14th annual SSUSA International tour.

The three 2013 SSUSA teams – USA Red, USA White and USA Blue – then took a ferry across the Irish sea and traveled through Wales and Northern England to

Scotland for another series of games in Edinburgh.

The U.S. teams played six Scottish teams over two evenings, culminating in a dinner with the teams at a local carvery.

“The games were fun, and the friendships we started were even better,” said Liz Graham of Edinburgh Softball, who coordinated the games both in 2003 and this year.

Don Stratton, CEO of the Independent Softball Association and manager of the USA Blue team, made a touching speech about Bill Curry and presented Co-MVP medals to Bill Curry’s two children, Kaitlyn Berry and Bill Jr., who had traveled to Edinburgh on news of their father’s death. The Blue team Best Offensive player was Bobby Davis of Florida.

Bill Ruth, president of both ISA and SSUSA and manager of the USA White team, named Daryl Bruns MVP, Dan Vasquez Best Offense and Roger Kroeber Best Defense.

Terry Hennessy, CEO of SSUSA and manager of USA Red, named Kiko Gutierrez Best Defense, Jesus Bencomo Best Offense and Moon Mullen MVP.

Bill Curry Dies on International Tour

Bill Curry, 57, of Massachusetts, a powerful hitter and solid outfielder, suffered a heart attack and died in Edinburgh during the SSUSA International Tour on June 26.

“Bill was my best friend in softball and like my brother and he will be sorely missed,” wrote his manager Paul Casey. “He played for the Hannington/Bay State Bombers 55. He was actually the CO-MVP in 2011 when the Bombers won the Triple Grand Slam in Phoenix when he hit a modest .912 for the tourney.”

Curry was also one of the top hitters – and key outfielders – on the



Bill Curry was playing on the Celtic Tour.

USA Blue team, said Don Stratton, CEO of the Independent Softball Association and manager of the USA Blue team.

“Bill was the perfect mix as a softball player – he mastered all of the skills and he had a warm personality and great sense of humor,” said Terry Hennessy, CEO of SSUSA.

Curry graduated with honors from Bentley University, received his MBA from Babson College, and was a CPA. He was employed by Waters Corp. as vice president, corporate controller, and principal accounting officer.

He is survived by his two children, Kaitlyn Berry and Bill Jr., and his girlfriend Jennifer Butkiewicz, who was with him on the tour.



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End-of-Season Fitness Checklist

Summer is all about getting outside to play. And for ball players no time of year inspires us and transports us to a place where we feel so completely in our element.

No doubt, the game of softball is beloved by its players. The sport is perhaps most loved by senior players as demonstrated by their eagerness to participate at a time in life when others are slowing down.

As we approach the end of softball season it's time to reflect upon our performance this year.

Focusing first on the positive, ask yourself what worked? How was my hitting, throwing and running? How was my strength, stamina and recovery time during and after play?

These are some important questions to contemplate when analyzing our seasonal accomplishments. Asking and honestly answering those questions can help identify areas that need improvement.

Whatever you determine to be



Stretching Limits

By Lisa Cachia

your areas of needed improvement this year; adopting a consistent exercise program of **general conditioning** will greatly improve overall performance going forward.

General conditioning includes but is not limited to accumulating **30 minutes or more of moderate level activity** most days of the week. This will better prepare your body for more vigorous activity later.

If you are truly pressed for time,

break it up into a few 15-minute rounds each day. Go for walks, ride a bike or take some kind of exercise class that is appropriate to your needs and level of fitness and increase frequency and intensity from there. But make it fun.

I cannot stress enough the value of learning to include stretching as part of a general condition program. Taking the time to **stretch major muscles** of the upper and lower body **each day** can increase range of motion and help to prevent acute injury (tears, strains and sprains) to soft tissues. Stretching is relaxing for the mind and body and may relieve sore muscles.

If are unsure what to do to create a realistic program, talk to a physical therapist or fitness professional for ideas.

The trick to making any conditioning program work is consistency. As with any worthwhile undertaking, some advanced planning can lend itself to getting the best possible results.

Make an appointment with yourself to exercise. Putting your work out time into your calendar and treating it like a meeting you shouldn't miss can help you stay on track.

Meet a friend to go for a walk and after that play catch. When was the last time you just went out and threw the ball around just for fun?

Making a point meet someone also encourages us to show up for activities.

Focusing on next season with a desire to feel good and perform well can be the best motivator to staying active and accountable to your commitment to exercise during the off-season.

So as the days grow short and the nights grow long, keep next season in mind. Find ways to work physical activity into your daily schedule and make a plan to play.

Please have regular check-ups and consult your physician before beginning any new exercise program.

Please contact Lisa Cachia, ACSM Certified Personal Trainer at Benefitness@comcast.net with any questions or comments.

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Open Stance Offers Many Advantages to Hitters

By Art Eversole

Which of the three standard batting stances is best for a senior softball player?

Many of us grew up playing baseball learning about the three basic batting stances: open, closed and square.

When the batter's front foot is closer to home plate than the back foot, it is considered a closed stance. When a batter's front foot is parallel with the back foot to home plate, this is a square-up stance (see figures 4 & 5 at right).

What is an open batting stance? When the hitter sets himself into the batter's box with the back foot closer to home plate than the front foot, it is considered to be an open batting stance. My contention is that an open stance offers advantages that the other two don't possess.

When I say open stance, I'm not referring to the extreme open stances that some major league players are using. It's simply a front foot drop-step back about one half the length of your rear foot. The front foot's toe should be about even with the back foot's instep while placing your back foot at a distance from home plate that allows the batter full strike-mat coverage. Many seniors chose



Brett Kreuger demonstrates the open stance.

their batting stances by copying their favorite pro baseball player at a young age and have not changed. Reasons for a taking an open stance:

- 1) Open stance is an all-in-one stance if executed correctly.
- 2) Both eyes of the batter will be facing forward allowing for the best

look at the incoming pitch.

3) You can achieve optimum plate coverage.

4) The inside pitch is much easier to handle because you're opened-up to drive your hands to the ball around the hips reducing handle hits.

Hitting with an open stance is

not considered stepping in the bucket because you're going to pull an inside pitch, then step toward the pitcher on middle pitches and toward the opposite field for outside pitches.

Attempting to pull the ball from a square or closed stance can result in a trade-mark or handle hits missing the sweet spot of the barrel.

The hitter must keep his or her body weight on the balls of the feet in an athletic posture. About 70 percent of your body weight should be on your back foot pressing down on the instep of the foot.

When the front foot is lifted then the weight goes to 100 percent on the rear foot. After completion of your swing, 90 percent of your weight should have been transferred forward to your front foot.

Power and stability come from hitting off the back foot correctly with a weight transfer from the back-side to the front-side allowing hips to rotate freely for more power.

Understand that all batting stances are going to have their pros and cons. The open stance will allow for better strike-plate coverage while with simple foot placing adjustments will make your softball swing much more efficient.

Quad Cities: Oldest Senior Tournament in Illinois/Iowa

Continued from Page 3

and finally over Silver Sneakers 14-0 to win the AAA title.

The AA title went to Jerry Diemel's, Oshkosh 70's.

Dave Raymond's Oshkosh Ambassadors 65 team proved to be tough competition for their five rivals. The Oshkosh-Bigosh men claimed the AAA gold crown going 5-0.

After going 0-2, Charlie Byrum's Chicago Gray Sox put it together to win the silver AAA crown, defeating Ed Tworek's Midwest Express team 19-18 in a thriller.

The silver AA title went to Mike Sabatino's Chicago Hitmen.

In the 60s division, Dan Umbach's, Chicago Prime 60's, played great defense and received timely hitting to go 5-0 and claim the AAA crown.

In the 60 AA, Wes Kehl's Badger Classics took home the prize.

In the 55 division, John Miranda's Chicago Classic Panthers proved tough competition for the eight-team field. The Panther-men won the gold AAA going 5-0.

Lorne Ring's Illinois Central Chiefs suffered a first-round loss to Gil Stephens' Integrity Builders, but put it all together, and played some outstanding softball, including a game-ending double play that gave

them the 55 silver AAA title.

For the first time in the 18-year history of the Quad Cities Classic, a team was shut out. Gene Meyer's 55 Fossils lost 17-0, but bounced back and played some great softball, before losing to Merle Hicks' 1st Interiors for the AA title.

The 50s put on an exciting show as four division titles were determined. Perennial powerhouse, Pope/Roberts Construction, although 55, took home a major 50 title.

Q.C. director, Gus Linke said, "Roberts/Pope has an excellent team, they are solid in all facets of the game, they are also an outstanding group of men, they will be a force at the

nationals." The other major 50 title went to J & J Sports from Iowa.

The AAA 50s proved to be most exciting and the title wasn't determined until the last game. Bob Kenney's W.C. Thunder defeated Kenny Chard's Steve's Old Time Tap 18-16 to claim the title.

The AA 50s title went to Steve Paulsen's Iowa City Antiques and a major highlight for the Iowa City team was defeating rival J & J Sports of Des Moines a major team, 19-12.

The 2013 Sportsmanship award went to the Mid-State Senior group 60's, 65's and 70's. Congratulations to managers Dave Wallace, John Collins and Rudy Pribble.



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Opinions & Letters

Fun, Healthy and Good for You

Growth is the Golden Child of our American culture.

In Wall Street, it is THE measure of success. Outside of the stock markets and business, growth is also the key yardstick of success.

In professional sports, winning teams generally attract the big crowds, more media time and large advertisers. The result? A growing bottom line for the team.

In amateur sports, growth is usually measured in participation.

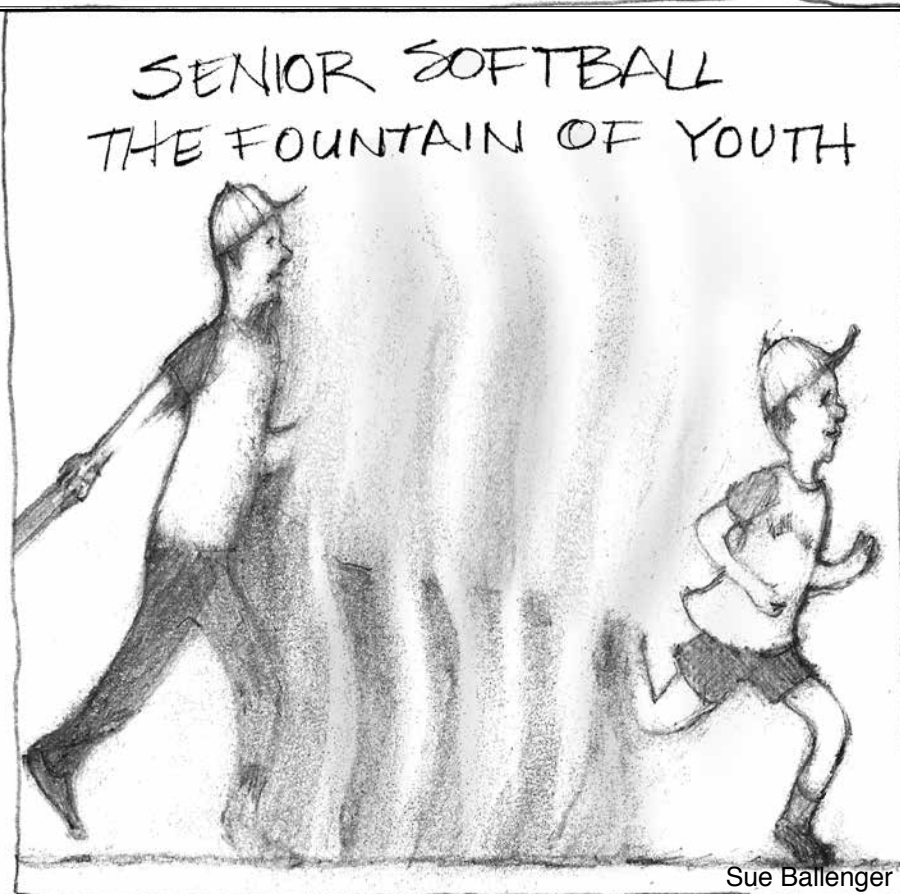
Our sport of senior softball has been on a steady growth curve for more than 20 years – both in America and internationally. The result is not just financial well-being, but increased physical and mental health for senior players.

Consider that the drive to play team sports often results in players increasing exercise and healthy lifestyles so that they can continue to compete. Our team sport also provides a healthy dose of camaraderie within teams – and between teams.

First Japan in 2000 and now China in 2013 have recognized the health benefits and the governments of both countries are backing programs to increase support for senior softball. We are both proud that these countries recognize the benefits of Senior Softball and happy to help them develop their programs.

The bottom line is senior softball is not only enjoyable, it's good for you – and that's why ever increasing numbers of seniors are playing softball.

- Terry Hennessy, SSUSA



Sue Ballenger

CAN-Sirs Benefit Tourney Raises Money, Awareness

ELK GROVE, Calif. _ The 2013 CAN-Sirs Benefit Tournament here CA hosted 48 senior teams and netted more than \$600 in fees and \$2,200 in donations from supporters. In addition, teams that entered in the Dean Perkins Tournament in Hayward, Calif., donated to the project.

The Benefit Tournament also launched a “St. Jude’s Bat Boy Tip Jar” drawing to raise money for young cancer patients.

The bat boy idea was inspired by the article in the last edition of Senior Softball News in which Terry Leiden, author of the book “Back in the Game,” entered a team in a tournament in Georgia. During the tournament, a young man approached the team and asked to be the bat boy. He told them he was a cancer survivor and said it would be a privilege. He was welcomed and he also will be the official bat boy for the team. The team is called the RECNAC CAN-

CAN-SIRS CORNER By Pete Davignon

Sirs. RECNAC is cancer spelled backwards and is the name of the team in Leiden’s book.

We thought it was a great idea and started looking for cancer survivors to be the bat boys and girls for all the teams entered in the event here. We contacted league officials and found out that youth leagues play ball on Saturdays so there would not be enough kids available.

This hatched what became the “St. Jude’s Bat Boy Tip Jar” drawing. The morning of the tournament, Jeffery Kimoto and his son packaged envelopes with free tickets for the drawing and we distributed them to the teams.

While we were not able to get to all three complexes where teams were playing, the “Tip Jars” generated \$834

for the St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital. Thanks to everyone for their generous support. Next year we hope to have a much improved Bat Boy program.

We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer for the CAN-Sirs. There are many areas that we can use help. Organizing a team, building data bases, managing a Facebook page, writing articles, helping keep the website current, seeking donations for merchandise for our “Bat Boy Tip Jar” and other tasks that will help us expand and improve our mission of cancer awareness.

CAN-Sirs is expanding throughout the senior softball community. The emails and conversations with survivors and supporters are overwhelming. Some have told us that seeing our teams and publicity has convinced them to get medical checkups and take preventative tests. This message can only continue with your support.

Please send your donation to:

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Florida Manager Ed Lee Dies at 70

Edmond “Ed” M. Lee, 70, a devoted softball player in Florida died on Aug. 16.

Lee was a veteran of the United States Air Force and served and retired from the Orlando Fire Department.

People say his true passion was for softball. This was because he played and managed four different teams and still never managed to miss a game.

He began playing Senior Softball back in 1998.

He managed Senior Moments and has played and managed on Double L/ Rose Ent. and Florida Thunder.



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Cal Cup Draws 58 Teams

Warriors, MTC, STIXX, Royals, Buds Among Winners

By Giovanni Crotti
Softball News Report

For the second year in a row, Placer County hosted the California State Championships, much to the delight of players, managers and families.

Drawing teams to Placer County is not very difficult as it boasts beautiful fields and amazing softball weather. Fifty-eight teams (55 from California) fought tremendously hard to see who would be named the best of the best in this Golden State classic.

"The weather like the competition heated up as the week went on," said Tournament Director Dave Dowell. "There is no wonder why this tournament draws as well as it does year in and year out. Each team brings their A-game to be crowned California State champion."

The ultra-competitive Men's 40 Masters Division paired three Major Plus and six Major teams for pool play before they broke out in their own brackets.

In the 40 Major Plus bracket, Prestige/Premier of Stockton entered as the last seed, but played their best when it counted and won the bracket as they beat the top seed twice to claim first place.

The 40 Masters Major Division saw the second seed SBS40 from Folsom slice through the winner's bracket to set up a showdown with Needle Madness. In this matchup of teams with only one loss in the tournament, SBS40 showed great poise and knocked off Needle Madness 27-21 in the championship game to reign supreme.

The Men's 50/55 Platinum division, the largest of the tournament, produced two winners in this mixed bracket. The Nor Cal Warriors raced through the winner's bracket to become the 50 Major champions while MTC 55's, after losing to the Nor Cal Warriors in the winner's bracket, made their way through the loser's bracket to become the 55 Major Plus winner.

The 50/55/60 Platinum division was an all-California affair pitting



teams from both north and south parts of the state.

In bracket play, the 50/55 Gold division was the most competitive division in the tournament, with five out of the six games decided by a single run. In the championship game where Sonoma County Crush defeated North State Extreme 16-15 to garner the top honor.

The 60 Major Plus bracket matched two familiar foes as Timberworks Construction out of Yuba City faced off against the Old Dawgs out of Sacramento. In the first game, Timberworks eked out a close victory 14-13. The championship game, however, was a different story as Timberworks outlasted the Old Dawgs 24-14 to land the first place trophy.

Viejitos and Norcal Storm both proved to be the cream of the crop in the 55/60 Gold Division. After going through the pool games as the second and fifth seeds respectively, both teams fought hard to make it through the bracket. After Viejitos beat Norcal Storm 12-2 and knocked them to the loser's bracket, Norcal Storm beat No Dice in a close 16-15 game to make it to the championship game. By virtue of their different age divisions, Viejitos was named the 55AAA division champ while Norcal Storm was declared the 60 Major champion.

It took an "IF" game but the Nor-Cal STIXX pulled off an impressive run to take home the 60AAA crown. After losing to the Sacramento Islanders in the winner's bracket, the Nor-Cal STIXX would not be denied and made their way into the championship game. They exacted

revenge on the Sacramento Islanders by winning 14-12 and then 15-11 in the "IF" game to conclude their great run with a first place finish.

Islanders Gold took the 60AA division in impressive fashion as they beat their opponents 13-3 and 17-6 in bracket play to win the three-team division.

Eight teams competed in the 65/70 Gold Division. Omen 65 bested Streamline Circuits three times in the tournament, which included their 15-5 victory in the championship game to wrap up the 65/70 Major Plus title.

The 65 Gold Division bracket went true to form as the top seed Mustangs from Livermore faced off against the No. 2 seed Old Dawgs 65 in the championship game. A back-and-forth game saw the Mustangs prevail 13-7 to end a magical weekend with a championship.

After the Sacramento Buds finished pool play, they went into bracket play as the No. 2 seed in the three-team 65AA division. After a hard fought 20-15 win over Physiotion, the men from Sacramento continued their winning ways beating top seed the Sacramento Blues, 16-15. The rematch of the first-round game against Physiotion had the same result as the Sacramento Buds wrapped up the tournament and a 65 AA division title by the score of 16-4.

RWC State Roofing Systems went a perfect 6-0 in the tournament and won all of their games in impressive fashion to take the five-team 70 Gold division.

The 75AAA Division featured three teams from Northern California. After a very even pool play session where all three teams ended up with a 2-2 record, Sacramento Gold reigned supreme as they beat State Roofing Systems 16-11 to claim the title of best 75AAA team in California.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the California State Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.

Directory of Senior Softball Associations

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Fat Nancy's, Cyclones, Capitals Win in Northeast

By Dave Dowell
Softball News Report

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – The SSUSA's 2013 Northeast Championships returned here in late August as 32 teams sought regional championships and coveted berths in the Tournament of Champions in Florida in February, 2014. The tournament took place over six days at the Hopkins Road Park Softball Complex.

"It's a treat to return here for the Northeast Championships again this year. The tournament is growing nicely and the city is great to work with," said Cal Allison, an SSUSA national director from Florida and on-site tournament director. "This is New England softball at its best, with close games and closer friendships on display every day," he added.

The tournament got under way



Friday as teams in the Men's 50's, 55's and 60's took to the fields under perfect conditions. The Men's 50-Platinum division set the tone for the rest of the tournament with an amazingly competitive bracket. Four of the six games played were one-run affairs. Top seed Sports Center (RI) completed an unbeaten weekend by winning all three of their bracket

games by a single run, the last of which was 25-24 over Rochester NY 50/Genesee Creamale in the championship game. Both teams earned TOC berths for the 50-Major Plus and 50-Major, respectively.

In the Men's 50/55-Gold division, the six teams played a mixed round robin before splitting to their respective double-elimination brackets. Custom Logos (NY) completed an unbeaten weekend by defeating Fat Nancy's Buck Naked Lounge (NY) in the championship game (26-21) for the 50-AAA title.

The 55-Major division played out in similar form with Fat Nancy's/Gubiotti Insurance (NY) beating Roncones (NY), in a tense 15-14 squeaker in the championship game.

In the Men's 55/60-Gold division, mixed pool play also led to separate brackets for the six Major and

55/60-Silver divisions. The Syracuse Merchants (NY) swept their best two of three 60-Major championship series with Pace Electronics (NY) by scores of 28-15 and 27-5. In the Silver bracket, Bradford White completed a perfect unbeaten weekend with two close wins over the Roc City 55's (NY), 15-13 in the winner's bracket final and again, 23-20, in the championship game.

In the Men's 60-AA division, the New York Capitals and the Syracuse Cyclones 60 needed three games at the end of the bracket to sort things out. After trading fairly comfortable wins, Syracuse by 20-13 in the winner's bracket final, and the Capitals by 18-7 in championship game, things got serious in the "If" game. The Capitals hung on in an instant classic, 20-19, to snag the title.

Monday arrived with the 65+ and more senior divisions beginning play at Hopkins Road Park in the second session of games.

In the Men's 65-AAA division, the Syracuse Cyclones took the long approach to the championship by losing their first bracket from the top seeded position before reeling off four straight wins from the elimination bracket.

The last two wins were over the Jersey Masters, 20-18 in championship game and 20-12 in the "If" game to grab the title.

The Syracuse Cyclones 70 swept both games in their best two of three championship series against the Anaconda Sports 65's (NY) to take home the 65/70-AA title.

And the Pittsburgh Gold (PA) put together an exciting unbeaten week in the 70/75-Gold division, with three of their five wins by one run. Pittsburgh defeated Hannington's of Massachusetts twice, 12-4 in the winner's bracket final, and again, 15-13 in the championship game to take home the trophy.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Northeast Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.

Vipers, Still Young, Michelle's, Blue Chips Top Divisions in Northern Championships

By Beth Hamilton
Softball News Report

LANSING, MICH. – Forty-three teams arrived here in late August to compete in the Northern Championships.

Tim McElroy, a director for Senior Softball USA said, "I don't think the weather could have been any better. It was a great 73 to 75 degrees with a slight breeze." With the weather in their favor, the tournament went off without a hitch.

Six teams competed in the 50 Major bracket, with Still Young prevailing over CPOA Cleveland/ Northern Ohio Printing in the championship game 22-6.

Because of some conflicts, two teams could not make the round robin games in the 50 AAA division. Therefore to make things even, they were penalized and placed in the last two seeds. Yet Michelle's Boyz/Stansell from Ohio fought their way through eight games and ended up beating Detroit Elite 18-10 for the title.

In the 55 Major division, Pope



Transport from Wisconsin was a team on a mission. After the first round of games, they were placed in the third seed. Going into the championship bracket they kicked it up and survived two close games. In the championship game against Kinnco Services, Pope Transport proved they had enough with a 19-17 win.

Seven teams competed in the 55/60 AAA Gold Division with the Golden Vipers of Michigan coming out on top by beating the Milwaukee Merchants 16-5 in the finals.

With three teams competing in the 60 AAA division, it was a race to the finish for the Northeast Ohio Seniors, The Bomb Squad and Windsor Chiefs

60. The No. 1 seed Northeast Ohio Seniors ended up taking home the title in a close match-up with the Windsor Chiefs 19-18.

In the 60 AA division, Blue Chips 60 of Illinois were feeling confident stepping into the championship round, after winning their first three games. In the title game, they met the No. 2 seeded Ohio Silverados, whom Blue Chips defeated 17-12.

The only team to compete in the 65 Gold Division as 65 Major was DeClaire Knee & Orthopedic. They shot to the top right off the bat and eventually landed in the championship game against the Windsor Chiefs, which DeClaire won 20-14.

All-In 50 and Milwaukee Magic 50, both 50AA teams met in a best two-out-of-three series with the Milwaukee Magic sweeping the series by scores of 10-8 and 20-6.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Northern Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.



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Reno: 14 States, 31 Divisions Vie for Titles

Continued from Page 1

tournament was a huge success. Boasting teams from 14 states and Canada, we plan on continuing this tournament's rich tradition for many years to come," said Senior Softball Executive Director Fran Dowell.

While Reno's weather can be quite temperamental, this year the conditions were perfect as sunshine and blue skies were the norm for the 10-day event.

Rock 'n Reno allowed all participating teams to qualify for the Western National Championships and the ever popular World Masters Championships in Las Vegas.

As always, competition on the field was fierce with teams competing for supremacy in 31 divisions.

The 40 Major-Plus division included four teams: Handpicked, Prestige/Premier, Louisville Sluggers, and Magic Sports Unforgiven. After dropping their first game, Louisville Sluggers ran off four straight wins for the championship. They eventually defeated Prestige/Premier in the championship and 'IF' game, 18-17 and 16-9 respectively.

The 40 Major division was conquered by



A Ryan's Way (Utah) player jumps for the ball in 60 Major action against No Dice of California.



Action was hot in the 40 Men's Masters Major-Plus division, left photo, and R&R, right photo, made it to the 60AAA Championships.

Craze/Anarchy in an eight-team bracket. As the No. 4 seed, Craze averaged 24.5 runs per game during bracket play on their way to the championship. They defeated Sofaking, 26-12 in the finals.

In the 50 Major-Plus division, second-seeded God's Sports Company cruised to a championship with three straight wins. Northwest Legends was the only team to test God's Sports Company only to fall short, 28-25, in the third round. G.S.C. would go on to defeat Nazzareno Electric, 32-17 in the championship game.

The 50 Major division was arguably the most competitive division. Out of the 18 games in the bracket, eight were decided by three runs or less. JU Entertainment defeated No. 1 seeded Nor Cal Warriors 14-13 in the second round. Nor Cal Warriors would go on to win five straight to face San Antonio Softball Club in the finals. However, San Antonio Softball would prove too strong defeating the Warriors 13-5 for the division title.

The 50 AAA division bracket was chalk full of great games but in the end the top two seeded teams faced each other in the finals. Top seeded OH MY knocked second seeded Fly 50's into the loser's bracket 19-11 in the semifinal round. Fly 50's came back to



Photos by Jack Eberhard

face OH MY again in the finals but OH MY would once again prove to tough winning the championship 22-10.

The 55 Major-Plus division was won by second seeded Hendricks Sports Management. Hendricks was knocked into the loser's bracket by MTC 55's, only to win three straight double dipping MTC 55's, 24-10 and 18-17 in the championship and 'IF' games.

Number 4 seeded Christiansen Arms was victorious in the 55 Major division. Christiansen Arms won four straight games on their way to victory with an onslaught of offense, scoring no less than 24 runs in each of their games. They defeated Goodman Racing 40-31 in the championship.

All Pro Plumbing, hailing locally from Nevada, grabbed the top seed heading into bracket play for the 55 AAA division. In the 11-team bracket, All Pro Plumbing proved dominant with four straight victories defeating Git-R-Done in the championship 14-12.

The 55 AA division was highly competitive with close games littered throughout the bracket. 1st draft defeated Lincoln Hills Coyotes in the semifinal 23-11, sending Lincoln Hills into the loser's bracket. Lincoln Hills topped Scrap Iron 16-12 to face 1st Draft once again in the finals. In two closely fought games, Lincoln Hills defeated 1st Draft 12-10 in the championship and 17-14 in the 'IF' to take the division championship.

The 60 Major-Plus division saw Joe Brown's All Stars face Timberworks Construction in a best of three match-up. Timberworks took game one

Continued on next page



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Photos by Jack Eberhard.



These pitchers in Reno display and array of pitching styles designed to persuade batters to swing at balls tailored to get an out. .

Reno Winners: Old Dawgs, Clubbers, O's, Omen, Texas

Continued from Page 1

30-25 only to lose in the second game 20-17 setting up a winner take all 'IF' game. Joe Brown's All Stars fell to Timberworks 30-21 in the championships game.

The 60 Major division was made up of 10 teams from six different states and Canada. Old Dawgs, hailing from California, showed tremendous resiliency to win the division as the tenth seed. They ran off five straight victories only being tested in the semifinals by Texas Heat 19-18. Old Dawgs beat Smith Electric 26-15 in the finals.

The 60 AAA division was the second largest division of the tournament as well as the most exciting. Aro Glass Clubbers, the No. 14 seed, lost to R&R Sixties 22-20 in the opening round. R&R won four straight to advance to the championship game, while Aro Glass clawed their way through the loser's bracket to once again face R&R in the finals. In two of the most thrilling games of the tournament, Aro Glass Clubbers beat R&R Sixties 28-27 in the championship and then 23-22 in the 'IF' to win the division.

The 60 AA division was one of

the larger ones of the tournament with 11 teams. No. 4 seed Modesto O's ran through the winner's bracket defeating their opponents by an average of 7.75 runs per game. Modesto O's claimed the division championship with a 26-15 victory over Git-R-Done.

Three teams made up the 65 Major-Plus division: Omen 65, Full Circle and Tharaldson 65. Omen 65 beat Full Circle 19-15 in the second round only to defeat them once again in the championship game 24-9.

In the 65 Major division, the top seed was claimed by KRT Financial. KRT beat W.E. Ruth Realty in the opening round, 15-13. W.E. Ruth Realty won a nail biter over Bickerton Iron Works 16-15 in the first game of the loser's bracket. W.E. Ruth got hot, running off seven straight wins on their way to the championship where they got their revenge on KRT Financial by double dipping them, 18-12 and 23-21 respectively.

The 65 AAA division was the largest of the tournament with 16 teams. The No. 10 seeded Marauders played consistent ball and were able to stay perfect through the bracket, eventually defeating the Silver Sox 13-9 to win the division.

In the six-team 65 AA division, the Lincoln Hills Coyotes stayed true to form by grabbing the No. seed to begin bracket play. The Coyotes defeated the Sacramento Buds, Monaco Mayhem and Physiotion by an average of 12.5 runs per game to claim the division title.

Florida Legends Human Kinetic was able to win the 70 Major-Plus division with three straight victories. They were tested by Streamline Circuits in the second round but eked out a victory 23-20. Florida Legends would go on to defeat Streamline Circuits once again in the championship 27-17.

Scrap Iron 70 Legacy slugged their way to the championship in the 70 Major division. As the top seed, they were able to defeat Team New Mexico, 1,000 Oaks Panthers, and PDR/Fastsigns in three consecutive victories for the division championship.

Eight teams fought for supremacy in the 70 AAA division. No. 1 seed RWC State Roofing held their opponents to an average of eight runs per game to win the championship. RWC State Roofing defeated the Raptors 14-6 in the championship.

In the 70 AA division, The Zone scored 21 runs in three consecutive games on their way to the title. The 75 Gold division played a round-robin format in order to accommodate different team classifications. The championship game pitted Gold Coast against State Roofing Systems. In a defensive battle, Gold Coast edged out State Roofing Systems 15-12.

The 75 Major division was a battle of two 2 teams: San Francisco Seals and Top Gun 75's. The San Francisco Seals took down Top Gun 75's with two consecutive wins 22-11 and 20-11 for the championship.

The 80 Major division saw top seed Fairway Ford defeat Joeseppi's 17-12 in the second round and then claim the championship with a 14-11 win over Joeseppi's once again.

The Redwood City Chiefs and Texas Classics played a best of three bracket for the 80 AAA division title. Texas Classics defeated Redwood City Chiefs 19-9 and 16-15 in a close one for the championship.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Rock N' Reno Reno Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.



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Reno Draws Largest Women's Division of Year

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

Rock N' Reno Challenge Cup attracted the largest number of women of any SSUSA tournament, with 31 teams participating.

In the Women's 40 Gold division, seven teams from five states battled for supremacy in their division. Top seeded Saints knocked Tharaldsons into the loser's bracket with a 18-12 win. Tharaldsons would go on to edge out Steel Runnin in the semifinals 13-12. They would then proceed to double dip the Saints, defeating them 26-14 in the championship 'IF' game.

The Women's 40 AA division saw B.O.O.B.s. faced off with Northwest Intensity. B.O.O.B.s. won two straight 19-8 and 18-12 for the division championship.

The Women's 50 division saw No. 1 seeded Dream Team play their way to victory. Dream Team knocked Steel Smackin into the loser's bracket only to have to face them once again in the championship. Steel Smackin was able to force an 'IF' game, but Dream Team squeaked by 22-21 to win the championship.

Five teams made up the Women's 55 division: Roadrunners, Got Runs,



It was a close play for the Oregon Reign second baseman in 50 Women's Division action, left photo, while the Saints of Arizona pitcher throws during the 40 Gold championship game, right photo.



Ladies Choice, Nevada Sage and California Spirit. No. 3 seeded Ladies Choice fought their way into the finals with a 10-9 victory over California Spirit. Spirit would however beat Got Runs 15-11 in the semifinal and also force an 'IF' game with Ladies Choice. However, in the 'IF' game, California Spirit appeared to run out of gas, and Ladies Choice took the

championship, 18-5.

The largest women's division of the tournament was in the 60 age division of seven teams. California Spirit and California Express/Timberworks claimed the top two seeds coming out of pool play. Both teams dominated the bracket and faced each other in the finals. California Spirit, after losing to Express in the semifinals, ran off two

straight wins 18-10 and 27-19 for the division title.

The Women's 65 division drew five teams to Reno. Fun Bunch guaranteed themselves the top seed and ran through the bracket with ease until the final. Saints Express gave Fun Bunch a competitive game, however Fun Bunch would edge out a narrow 12-11 victory for the championship.



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Santa Cruz, left photo, lost by one run to the eventual 50 Women's champ Arizona Dream Team, while, right photo, the Angry Birds runner tries to beat the throw against Old School in 40 Women's competition.



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WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

WMC: Event Features Hall of Fame, Warriors



Jack Eberhard

Player celebrates winning Vegas in 2012

Continued from Page 1

Last year, 446 teams from 36 states (including Alaska and Hawaii), from three Canadian provinces, Guam, Germany and Japan competed in Senior Softball's largest tournament ever.

This year WMC officials are estimating close to 500 teams will flock to this gambling mecca.

The 500 teams in the World Masters Championships(WMC) translate into 15,000 people who will infuse \$22 million into the economy.

The numbers are remarkable: 1,600 games over the 10-day event, with 80 umpires, 60 directors, and more than 100 other volunteers and vendors

"It is our pleasure to welcome the more than 400 teams that will make the trip to the Las Vegas to compete in the Senior Softball

World Masters Tournament," said Pat Christenson, president of Las Vegas Events.



"We hope that all of the participants and fans have a great experience at the ballparks and enjoy everything that Las Vegas has to offer."

Las Vegas Events, the Title Sponsor of the 2013 World Masters Championships, has been instrumental in providing the necessary support to create the largest senior softball tournament in the world.

The WMC will feature several National Hall of Fame inductions, a benefit Wounded Warriors game,

several USA National Games and a chance for teams in 35 divisions to win the largest senior tournament ever.

In addition, the top award given by SSUSA annually, the Team Sportsmanship Award, will be presented to Hannington 55s of Massachusetts during Opening Ceremonies on Sept. 27 at Big League Dreams.

Teams qualified for the WMC by playing in one of the 60 SSUSA qualifiers and regional championships.

The tournament is administered by SSUSA, with LVSSA supplying many of the field directors and helping secure and maintain the 10 softball facilities and 35 fields used in the tournament throughout Las Vegas, Henderson and Clark County.



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PS PREVIEW: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

US National Games

The Eastern National Champions will play the Western National Champions in a single game for the United States National Championships in Las Vegas during the 2013 World Masters Championships.

These games are the second leg of the Triple Grand Slam. Teams winning the US National Game are seeded first in their division bracket and teams losing the US National Game are placed second in their brackets.

MEN'S DIVISIONS

50 Major+

Arizona Elite vs TSC (SC)

50 AAA

Sonoma County Crush (CA) vs Florida Automated Shade

55 Major

Goodman Racing (WA) vs Sweet Construction 55 (NJ)

55 AAA

Git-R-Done 55 (CA) vs Hannington's 55 (MA)

60 Major+

Old Dawgs 60 (CA) vs Superior Senior Softball (VA)

60 Major

Top Gun 60 Softball (CA) vs Syracuse Merchants (NY)

60 AA

Islanders Gold (CA) vs Ohio Silverados



US National games are one of the highlights of the World Masters Championships.

Jack Eberhard

65 Major+

Omen Softball (CA) vs Hamel Builders/Superior (VA)

65 AAA

Mustangs (CA) vs Syracuse Cyclones (NY)

65 AA

Lincoln Hills Coyotes (CA) vs Rips Country Inn (MD)

75 Major

San Francisco Seals (CA) vs Joseph Chevrolet (FL)

80 Major

Arizona Prospectors vs Florida Investment Properties

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**WISH EVERY TEAM STAYING IN
THEIR HOTELS GOOD LUCK IN THE
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WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Senior Softball World Masters Championships 2013 Calendar of Events



Jack Eberhard

The largest senior divisions of the year are expected to compete.

Thursday, Sept. 26:

5-7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel

Manager Registration

Managers for the Men's 55 and 60 Division, and Women's 50, 55, 60, 65 and 70 Divisions register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5-7 pm at the Headquarters Boulder Station Casino and Hotel.

7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel

Managers Meeting

Managers for the Men's 55 and 60 Division, and Women's 50, 55, 60, 65 and 70 Divisions meet at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings. PLEASE NOTE THAT ROSTERS ARE FROZEN AT THE MANAGER'S MEETING.

Friday, Sept. 27:

8 am at all fields the Games Begin

Seeding games for the World Championships begin at all fields. Players register

before the first game. Some bracket games may be played in some divisions. National Games are scheduled to be played in the 55 Major, 55AAA, 60 Major-Plus, 60 Major, and 60 AA.

Noon-1 pm at Big League Dreams Opening Ceremonies

There will be a Parade of Players, National Anthem, Color Guard and induction ceremonies into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame. In addition, the special Steve Simmons Sportsmanship Award will be presented to Hannington 55s of Massachusetts, chosen as the best sportsmen of 2013.

Saturday, Sept. 28:

8 am at all fields the Games Begin

Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day.

Sunday, Sept. 29:

8 am at all fields - Awards Presented

Today is the culmination of play for the 55 and 60 Men's Division, and 50-70 Women's Divisions. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games.

5-7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel

Manager Registration

Managers for the Men's 65, 70, 75 and 80 Divisions register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5-7 pm at the Headquarters Boulder Station Casino and Hotel.

7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel

Managers Meeting

Managers for the Men's 65, 70, 75 and 80 Divisions meet at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings. PLEASE NOTE THAT ROSTERS ARE FROZEN AT THE MANAGER'S MEETING.

Monday, Sept. 30

8 am at all fields the Games Begin

Seeding games begin at all fields. Players register before the first game. US National Games are scheduled to be played for the 65 Major-Plus, 65AAA, 65AA, 70 Major-Plus, 70AAA, 75 Major, and 80 Major Divisions.

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LAS VEGAS



WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEW: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Noon-1 pm at Big League Dreams Opening Ceremonies

There will be a Parade of Players, singing of the National Anthem, and induction ceremonies into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

8 am at all fields - Games

Seeding and Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day. US National games will be played in the 65 Major, 65AAA, 65AA, 75 Major and 80 Major divisions.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

8 am at all fields - Games

Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day.

Thursday, Oct. 3

8 am at all fields - Awards Presented

Today is the culmination of play for the 65, 70, 75 and 80 Men's Divisions. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games.

5-7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel

Manager Registration

Managers for the Men's 40 and 50 Divisions, and the Women's 40 Division

register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5-7 pm at the Headquarters Boulder Station Casino and Hotel.

7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel

Managers Meeting

Managers for the Men's 40 and 50 Divisions, and the Women's 40 Division meet at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings. PLEASE NOTE THAT ROSTERS ARE FROZEN AT THE MANAGER'S MEETING.

Friday, Oct. 4

8 am at all fields the Games Begin

Seeding games begin at all fields. Players register before the first game. Some bracket games will be played in some divisions. National Games are scheduled to be played for the 50 Major -Plus, 50 Major and 50AAA Divisions, and the 40 Women's AAA and AA Divisions.

Noon-1 pm at Big League Dreams Opening Ceremonies

There will be a Parade of Players, singing of the National Anthem and awards.

7-9 pm at Big League Dreams Special Game Wounded Warriors and Vegas Celebrity All Stars play.

Here's your chance to see and support our soldiers wounded in combat since 9/11. The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team will be making a celebrity appearance at the World Master Championships to play a game with Las Vegas celebrities.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

Saturday, Oct. 5

8 am at all fields the Games Begin

Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day.

Sunday, Oct. 6

8 am at all fields - Awards Presented

Today is the culmination of play for the Men's 40 and 50 Divisions and the Women's 40 Division. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games.



Jack Eberhard

The Wounded Warriors will play in a Celebrity Game on Oct. 4 at Big League Dreams.



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Masters Championships**



**Would like to wish all teams heading to Las Vegas
the best of luck in the tournament.**



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Sweet Construction of New Jersey, left photo, on the way to the 55 Major Eastern National title as a couple of Syracuse Cyclones players share a light moment, above, on their way to the 65 AAA crown.

Eastern Nationals Back in Raleigh for Record 6th Year

By Dave Dowell
Softball News Report

RALEIGH, N.C. – During late July and early August, this city and the Walnut Creek Softball Complex rolled out the red carpet again for the SSUSA's 2013 Eastern National Championships. This year's event

marked the sixth consecutive year here, the longest running appearance in any American city during the Eastern and Western National Championships era.

Fifty-six teams competed for the Eastern titles and coveted berths in the 2013 Tournament of Champions

in Florida in early 2014, and the USA National Championship Games against their Western counterparts at the 2013 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships in Las Vegas beginning in late September.

"Raleigh is just a perfect fit for us every year, and Southern hospitality is everything a visitor could dream for," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA's executive director and on site tournament director. "The weather is perfect, the fields are beautiful and everyone is so happy and friendly," she added.

The Walnut Creek Softball Complex is a nine-field facility that is a prior recipient of SSUSA's Complex of the Year Award.

Play began with the 65+ and more senior divisions, and a special appearance by a formidable powerhouse from the West Coast. California's Fairway Ford 80's made the trip to Raleigh for the opportunity to play the best the East had to offer in the Men's 80-Major division, and it was quite a show.

Fairway forfeited its chance to play in the USA National game because they were geographically ineligible to represent the East, but that was merely an inconvenience. In front of a very large traveling party of family and friends, they fought their



A Kryptonite of Florida outfielder goes for a ball during the 40 Gold Championship game against Team Works of Virginia.



Dreamgirlz of Virginia and Lew's Crew of Maryland squared off in the 40/50 Women's finals.

way back through the elimination bracket to take two from Florida Investment Properties to claim the 80-Major title.

All wasn't lost for Florida Investment Properties, though, as they will represent the East in the USA National Game against the Arizona

Continued on next page



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Eastern Victors: Hamels, Cyclones, Vacar, Hannington

Continued from Page 18

Prospectors.

In the Men's 65/70-Major Plus division, Hamel Builders/Superior Softball (VA) completed an unbeaten week with an impressive 35-10 win over Talon Wealth Management (FL) in the championship game.

In the Men's 65-AAA division, things were a bit more suspenseful as the Syracuse Cyclones 65's eked out narrow victories over the Wilmington (NC) Softball club, 13-10 and 17-16 to earn their title.

The Men's 65/70-Silver division featured five evenly matched teams in search of a championship. No team escaped the week unbeaten as the Vacar Stars (VA) needed two wins over the Bailey Talent Cavaliers (VA), 13-7 in the winner's bracket final, and a last-at-bat 12-11 nail biter in the championship game for the 70-AAA championship.

Maryland's Rips Country Inn (65-AA) and New York's Syracuse Cyclones (70-AA) also earned Eastern National Championships and the related USA National game berths.

In the Men's 75-Major division, Hamel Builders 75 (MD) and Joseph Chevrolet 75 (FL) needed all three games of their best two-of-three series to find a champion. Joseph bounced back from a 12-8 loss in game one to sweep the next two, 9-8 and 18-5 to conclude the first session in exciting fashion.

Friday morning brought a rise in the heat and humidity, matched by the level of excitement as the Men's 50's, 55's and 60's began play across all nine fields.

In one of the most competitive divisions, the Carolina A's (NC) needed an "If" game to slip past Doug & Don's Auto Care (MI) for the 50-Platinum title. Carolina edged Doug & Don's in the winner's bracket final (9-8) before losing the championship game 24-12 and bouncing back with a 26-17 victory in the "If" game for the 50-Major crown.

TSC (SC) garnered the 50-Major Plus berth in the USA National game.

The Men's 50-AAA wasn't quite as suspenseful, as Florida Automated Shade capped an impressive unbeaten weekend with a 21-16 win over the Strike Zone 50+ (NC) in the championship game. Strike Zone simply ran out of steam, playing their fifth game in a row in the elimination bracket after stumbling in a first-round bracket game.

The Men's 55+ Division saw impressive championships by two teams, for vastly differing reasons. Sweet Construction (NJ) was one of the few teams to escape defeat during the weekend as they breezed through the 55-Major bracket with three very strong showings, culminating in a 25-8 win over the Triangle Masters (NC) in the final.

In the 55-AAA, things were not quite as simple



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Fairway Ford traveled from California to play Eastern 80s teams and won the division - but the Eastern title went to Florida Investment Properties (Fairway was ineligible to defend the Eastern in the US National Game.)



Wilmington, North Carolina players strategize in the dugout during the 65 AAA championship game against the Syracuse Cyclones. Wilmington fell to Syracuse 17-16 in the finals.

for eventual champion Hannington's 55 (MA).

Dedicating this tournament to the memory of teammate William "Bill" Curry, who tragically passed away during the SSUSA's International Tour of Ireland this summer, proved both emotionally trying and extremely gratifying in the end.

All of their bracket game wins were razor thin, including 9-8 over Who's on First/Culver (MD) in the winner's bracket final and 15-12 over the Chicago Classics Panthers (IL) in the championship game. That win avenged their only loss of the weekend suffered in pool play, 19-4, at the hands of those same Panthers.

The Men's 60+ Division offered a little bit of everything for softball fans. In the 60-Major Plus Division, both Hollis Appraisals (FL) and Superior Senior Softball (VA) began their best two-of-three championship series unbeaten, at 3-0, following mixed pool play with the 60-Major's.

Superior kept the unbeaten streak intact with 24-18 and 17-4 wins to wrap up the title. In the 60-Major bracket, the Virginia Vipers came through the elimination bracket to force an "If" game by slipping past the Syracuse Merchants (NY) in championship game, before dropping the "If" game finale, 19-12, to Syracuse.

The Men's 60-Silver Division was the most balanced division of the tournament, with only one of the eight teams getting out of pool play unbeaten. Lou's Royals (NC) was that team, but their good fortune only lasted one game in the 60-AAA bracket before they found themselves in good company in the elimination bracket. Lou's Royals had to play three of their last four bracket games against a very game Flip Dow Bonding (NC), who won the winner's bracket final 21-9.

But Lou's fought back through the third place game and then won two exciting games over Flip Dow, 20-16 in championship game and again, 21-20 with a last-at-bat rally in the "If" game.

The 60-AA bracket played out in a very similar fashion, with the Ohio Silverados and the Syracuse Cyclones 60 (NY) needing three games to determine

Continued on next page



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East, West Teams in US Games to Be Top Seeds at WMC

In an effort to level the playing field, SSUSA is changing the way it seeds the winners and losers of the U.S. National game at the World Masters Championships (WMC) in Las Vegas.

Under the new system, which will be used this year at the WMC, the team that wins the U.S. National game will be seeded first in the division bracket and the loser will be seeded second in the WMC bracket.

The U.S. National game is the second leg of the Triple Grand Slam.

To win the Triple Grand Slam, teams must win their division of play at either the Eastern or Western National Championships, then win the USA National game and, finally, win

Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

their bracket at the WMC.

Teams must win at least two of those three in actual competition. Teams that had no opponent in either the Eastern or Western Championships, AND had no opponent for a USA National game, are not eligible for the Triple Grand Slam.

The list of this year's U.S. National games is on Page 15.

The reason for placing the U.S. National game teams at the top of their division brackets at the World Masters Championships is simple fairness.

The U.S. National game is one of the seeding games for the WMC, how-

ever there are important differences from normal seeding games:

1. The games are not timed; they go a full seven innings.

2. The U.S. National games are not random (all of the other seeding games are selected by a randomized computer program.)

The first SSUSA tiebreaker used in large brackets is record, followed by the least number of runs scored against teams.

Because the U.S. National games go seven innings, the scores tend to be much higher – and that puts both teams at a distinct disadvantage.

In addition, the loser of the U.S. National game has just played one of the strongest teams in the country

– and it was not a random selection, putting the loser of the U.S. National game at a further disadvantage.

An example used by National Director Dave Dowell illustrates the problem: "In 2012 in Phoenix, one USA National game ended 30-26 in nine innings. The winner finished 2-0 and was seeded No. 9 (of the nine unbeaten teams in seeding). The runner-up also lost their second game and was seeded No. 29 of 29."

We hope this new system will even the playing field for teams playing in the U.S. National games.

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

Eastern Women's Winners: Kryptonite, Dreamgirlz

Continued from Page 19

a champion. Syracuse dropped Ohio into the loser's bracket with a 12-10 victory in the Winner's bracket final before Ohio stormed back through, winning both championship game (24-16) and the "If" game (11-6) to wrap

things up.

A very exciting eight-team Women's Division began play on Saturday morning, bringing a high level of energy and impressively skilled play to the Walnut Creek Complex. Following a full morning

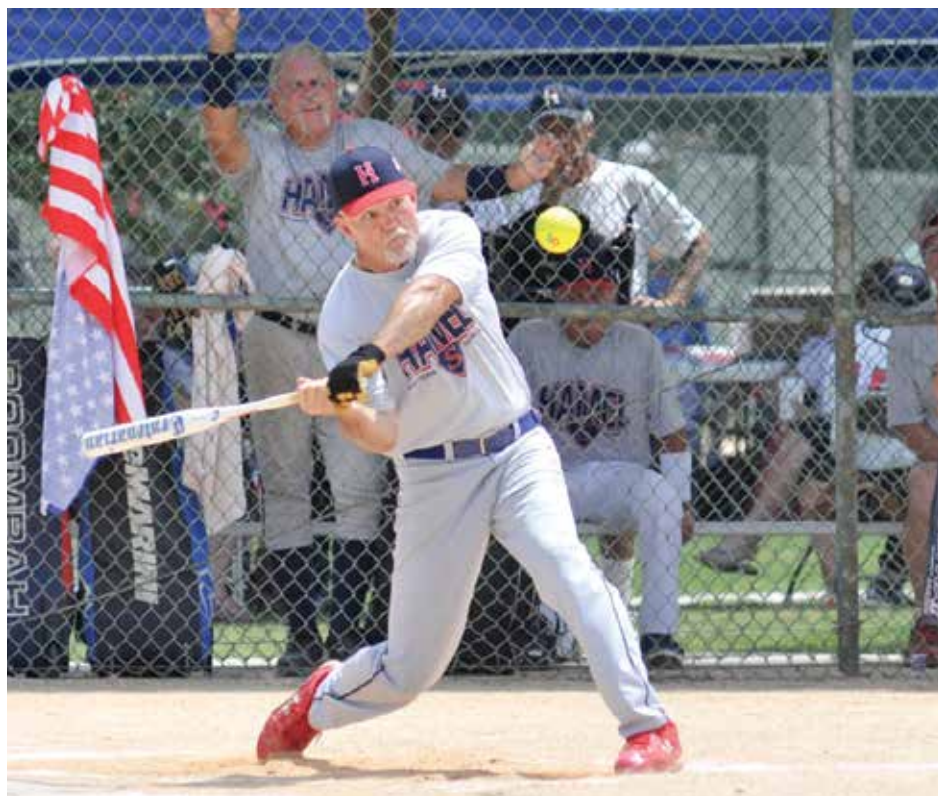
of pool play and a short rest, the Women's 40-Masters Gold division commenced bracket play later that afternoon while the 40/50/55-Silver Division enjoyed the rest of the afternoon off.

As was the norm for many other divisions, the Women's 40-Masters Gold was both entertaining and unpredictable, as this one also took three games between the last two teams standing to determine a champion. Kryptonite (FL) won the winner's bracket final rather easily, 22-6, over Team Works (VA), but that didn't last long, as Team Works returned the favor with their 14-9 win in championship game, before falling to Kryptonite (15-4) in the "If" game to decide the 40-Masters AAA crown. C.P.B. (MI) also secured a USA National game berth in the 40-Masters Major division.

The Women's 40/50/55-Silver Division was more for the fun of the game, with all three teams already assured of a berth in the USA National Championship games. Lew's Crew (MD), in the 40-AA, and the sister clubs, Dreamgirlz 50 and Dreamgirlz 55 (VA) played a three-team bracket for fun and bragging rights. The Dreamgirlz 50's defeated each of the

other teams, Dreamgirlz 55 (15-10) and Lew's Crew (30-8), to grab the trophy.

For complete game scores and bracket results, visit the Eastern National Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.



Photos by Jack Eberhard

Hamels Builders of Virginia pounded the ball in their victory over Talon Wealth of Florida, winning the 65/70 Major Plus Championships.



There is no doubt about this call during the Eastern Nationals.



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Western Nationals

Record 104 Teams Compete in 40s Through 80s; Canada Claims 2 Titles

Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – The 13th annual Western Nationals turned out to be lucky for senior softball players here in August, with a record number of teams competing in beautiful weather.

California's Capital drew 104 teams from seven western states and Canada to determine the top teams in the West.

The Western Nationals is the first step toward one of the most coveted prize in senior softball -- the Triple Grand Slam.

Winners of the Western Nationals receive a berth in the US National Game (against the winner of the Eastern Nationals, which was played in Raleigh, N.C.). Teams that win the US National Game, the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas this fall win the Triple Grand Slam.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, fresh from his victory in keeping NBA's Kings in Sacramento, welcomed senior softball players to the Western Nationals: "Thank you for bringing your tournament to Sacramento and the best of luck to all of you...."

As in all tournaments, some teams had more luck than others, although several divisions had sharp – and close – games.

The youngest and oldest divisions set the tone for the tournament, with California teams beating Washington teams in both finals.

Four 80-year-old men's teams competed for the Western crown, with Arizona Prospectors defeating Joseppi's of Washington 12-8 in the finals for the Western title. The Redwood City Chiefs will represent the 80 AAA division for the West.

And in the 40 Women's AA division, B.O.O.B.s of California squeaked by Northwest Intensity of Washington 7-6 for the Western championship. Steel Runnin will represent the West in 40 AAA division.

In the largest division, the 60 Men's AAA, it was North versus South. The Bay Supporters of Northern California withstood a drive by OTE of Southern California, who emerged from the loser's bracket to beat Bay Supporters 25-17 and force an IF game. The Bay Supporters came back in the IF game to narrowly defeat OTE 14-12 to take the title.

In the first of two remarkable upsets, 1st American Title of Washington defeated powerhouse Streamline Circuits of California in two out of three games to win the 70 Major-Plus Championships.

In the second upset, the Old Dawgs double-dipped Joe Brown's All Stars to win the 60 Major-Plus title.

There was no upset in the women's 60 division, with California Spirit sweeping competitors in



a perfect 5-0 tournament and defeating California Express / Timberworks 22-8 in the finals.

In men's divisions:

Prestige/Premier defeated All World 40s in the finals 24-12 to win the 40 Major-Plus Western title.

The six-team 40 Major division went to the IF game, with NorCal Stars double-dipping Needle Madness (8-7 and 15-2) for the championship.

In the 50 Major-Plus division, the top seeded Arizona Elite beat MTC 50s 14-3 for the title.

In the large 11-team 50 Major division, the NorCal Warriors squeaked through the bracket, winning two of the games by only a single run, and beat the Oregon Flatliners 14-10 in the finals.

In another close finish in the 50 AAA, Sonoma County Crush was forced to the IF game by losing to the Stanislaus Sluggers (19-9). The Crush came back in the IF game to defeat the Sluggers 16-13.

In the mixed 55 Platinum division, Goodman Racing of Washington topped the 55 Major teams, while MTC 55s took the 55 Major-Plus Western title and won the bracket.

Git-R-Done beat Mountain Mike's Pizza in the 55 AAA finals 11-4 to win the division.

In AA action, Scrap Iron Coyotes beat the Scrap Iron Rockies (both teams are from Colorado) in two close finals (14-13 and 16-15) to win the 55 AA title and the Sacramento Islanders Gold of California edged Northwest Silver of Washington 11-10 to take the 60 AA crown.

Canada roared to victory in the 60 Major division, with Enviro-Vac Marauders of British Columbia double-dipping Top Gun 60s of California 10-9 and 15-14.

In the 65 Majors, another British Columbia team, the Master Marauders defeated Ponchos of Arizona 12-11 to win the Western title. Omen of California will represent the West 65 Major-Plus division and the Mustangs of California will represent the West in the 60- AA division.

In the five-team 65AA division, the Lincoln Hills Coyotes beat the Sacramento Buds 22-13 in the finals for the title.

In the mixed 70/75 Major division, the San Francisco Seals 75 Major team double-dipped the Lincoln Hills Coyotes 70 Majors to win the bracket and the 75 Western berth. The Coyotes were the top-finishing 70 Major team and will represent the West in that division.

In the 70 AAA, the Raptors beat Triple Play for the Western title and in the 75 AAA, State Roofing Systems defeated the Lincoln Hills Coyotes 75s (7-3) to take the championships.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Western National Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.

Scrap Iron Pioneer Phil Field Dies

Phil Field, a well-known softball player and coach throughout Senior Softball USA, died on Aug. 11 at the age of 76.

Field had an exciting life after college where he joined the Air Force and became a pilot who even helped with the development of the 777 airliner.

After his retirement he knew that softball was one of his favorite things to do and made it a priority. Along with several of his friends, he helped create a senior organization called Scrap Iron Softball Club out of Colorado in 2002.

He has played a huge role in the growth of

the club from doing the paperwork to having fun at the tournaments. The club now has 15 teams and both plays locally as well as around the United States.

Even after he was diagnosed with cancer, he fought the disease for five years and still managed to help coach and attend tournaments.

He also enjoyed 15 years as an usher for the Colorado Rockies games.

He is survived by his wife Chris, son Craig, daughter Karin Schmitz, sister Virginia Cable, as well as four grandchildren Caitlin, Camille, Nathan, and Elizabeth.



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Midwest Championships

Teams from 9 States Win Divisions, Heading to Tournament of Champions

By Giovanni Crotti
Softball News Report

SHAWNEE, KAN. - The Midwest Championships came back here for the fourth time as this tournament is quickly becoming one of the premier Senior Softball events in the country.

Fifty-six teams from all over the Heartland came to compete in this classic. "Good Starts Here" is Shawnee's motto and that proved true for this championship event.

"All the brackets were evenly matched," said long-time tournament director Otis Roland. "The teams were laid back and they came to play. There is a different attitude toward playing softball in the Midwest. No matter where you go, the teams always exhibit great sportsmanship along with a positive attitude."

The 50 Platinum division fielded seven teams representing seven states. After winning by 12 and 14 runs respectively in pool play, the Minnesota Merchants 50 team entered bracket play as the No. 2 seed. Their winning ways would not be stopped as they won the bracket and the 50 Platinum tournament with a perfect 6-0 record.

The KC Naturals won all five of their games in the tournament to best the 50AAA division. After playing two close games in pool play, the KC



Naturals turned on the afterburners in bracket play. This culminated in a championship game victory over the Old Pros out of Illinois by the score of 27-8. Four teams from four states made up the 55 Major division. After entering bracket play as No. 2 seed, Pope Transport of Wisconsin bested 50 Caliber+ twice (in the first game of the bracket and the championship game) to outlast the competition.

Integrity Builders out of Nebraska won the 55AAA bracket in convincing fashion as they swept through the division in route to a 18-9 win in the championship against Sports Image.

The 50/55 AA Division showcased two winners from Iowa. 1st Interiors and Antiques of Iowa battled through the bracket with Antiques of Iowa beating 1st Interiors in the championship game. The "IF" game did not happen though as both mutually agreed to win their respective divisions which made 1st Interiors the 55AA champion and Antiques of Iowa the 50AA champion.

In the hard fought Men's 60 Gold Division, a nine-team battle royal ensued as two teams took their respective divisions. The Chicago Classics Bobcats posted an impressive 5-0 record to take the 60AAA crown while the KC Kids made their way through the bracket to be declared the 60 Major Champion.

The 60AA Division was an evenly matched division as each team in the division lost at least a game in pool play. Once the bracket started though, The Scrap Iron Diamonds from Colorado rolled through the competition. They beat their opponents by no

less than six runs per game, beating Minnesota Blizzard 18-8 in the championships to book their ticket to the Tournament of Champions in Florida in February.

The 65 Gold Division was tied with the 60 Gold Division for the most teams in a division in the tournament. After the intense pool play concluded, the division broke out into two divisions for bracket play. In the 65 Major Division, three teams fought for the title. Minnesota Prize Co. came out on top, beating Bale Chevrolet from Oklahoma twice - including the 16-10 decision in the championship.

The 65AAA Division sported six teams. Michaels from Wisconsin got payback against R&D Leverage in their opening game beating them in a close battle 17-16 and avenging their loss in pool play. After beating Car City, Michaels squared off against Midwest Express from Nebraska in the championship game. Michaels prevailed by a 22-16 to earn the berth to the Tournament of Champions.

Breaking out into separate brackets after pool play, the Men's 70/75+ division featured many powerful teams widely known in softball circles around the country. But even through the tough matchups, two teams out of Arkansas stole the show to win each of the divisions.

Harris Auctions from Hot Springs went into bracket play as the No. 1 seed. After going 3-0 in pool play, Harris Auction continued their solid play as they won all three of their bracket games including an impressive win in the championship game, 18-5, over a solid Quad City Old Stars team.

The Crackerbox, hailing 60 miles away from Harris Auctions in Mammelle, Ark., completed a similar feat as their counterpart going undefeated in both pool play and bracket play to win the championship trophy over the Mid-America Patriots in the finals.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Midwest Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.

Milwaukee Senior Classic Marks 11 Years; Draws 29 Teams

Softball News Report

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. - The eleventh annual Milwaukee Classic softball tournament held at Wirth Park here in May attracted a record-tying 29 teams in age brackets from 50 to 75.

The weather was ideal for softball on Saturday and Sunday after a complete wash out on Friday. Because the Milwaukee area had many activities, graduations and concerts, the 65 and 70 teams could not finish the scheduled games Sunday as all hotels and motels were booked.

The competition in all five divisions was great. Rockford Orthopedics, a new team to the tournament, took the 50s division with Windy City Thunder taking second.

In the 55s division, Milwaukee Merchants won followed by Chicago Classics Panthers.

In the five-team 60 division, Handland Flooring took the title and Mitchells/Studz placed second.

In the eight-team 65 bracket, Michaels, with a 5 and 0 record, took the crown with Oshkosh Ambassadors claiming second with a 3 and 2 record. In the 70 division, Oshkosh Ambassadors won the tournament with Michaels 70's taking second place.

The tournament benefited the Wounded Warrior Project, (woundedwarriorproject.org) and a highlight was a fly over on Saturday by vintage military planes, provided by the Wisconsin War Hawks.

Mark your calendars for May 16-18 next year the 12th annual Milwaukee Classic. Based on this year's results, the tournament should be bigger and more competitive than ever.

Heard in the Dugout

"Anger is a wind that blows out the lamp of the mind."

- Robert Ingersoll

Rusch: 70 Years Playing

Continued from Page 3

robin tournament in which he played seven games one day.

Rusch says the biggest change in slowpitch came with the metal bats and the restricted softball as well as the change in the pitching distance.

He was elected to the North Dakota State Board of Directors for softball.

Rusch says that winning the state tournament with his two sons on the team was a softball fulfillment before leaving Fargo for Arizona where he started playing senior softball. His special memory there was pitching 10 games and batting .700 in winning a national tournament in Texas.



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69 Teams Compete in Atlantic Coast Championships

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

LOUDON COUNTY, VA. – The Eastern Seaboard drew 69 teams to the 2013 Atlantic Coast Championships, easily making this one of the most popular tournaments of the season.

Excellent weather and fantastic field conditions made for a great, competitive tournament. Two facilities were utilized to accommodate the growing number of teams, Potomac Lakes Sportsplex and Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park. Both facilities were top notch with, “major league quality infields,” according to tournament director Tim McElroy.

The 50 Major division drew eight teams. Mid-Atlantic Softball, hailing from Virginia, showed tremendous run-scoring capability averaging 26.75 runs per game. They were tested in the semifinals by Miami Power but prevailed, 18-17. They would go on to face Miami Power once again in the final, this time winning quite handily, 27-19.



In the 50 AAA division, the Maryland Cougars were knocked into the loser's bracket by Chesterfield Classics, 20-18. They were able to fight their way into the championship. Chesterfield once again fought hard however the Cougars prevailed in two straight victories, 25-23 and 25-24, to win the division.

The 55 Platinum division consisted of seven teams. Fifth seeded Triangle Masters surprised everyone by getting hot during bracket play and winning four straight to claim the division championship.

In the 55 AAA division, Tri-State Merchants came out of the loser's

bracket to force an 'IF' game against Old Time Brothers, 23-14. The 'IF' was a hard fought defensive battle with Old Time Brothers prevailing, 10-9, to win the division.

The 60 Major-Plus division saw High St. Bucs against Superior Senior Softball. Superior would prove too strong defeating the Bucs, 14-8 and 28-27, to win the championship.

In the 60 Major division, New York Streaks began bracket play as the highest seed, out of six teams. The Streaks proceeded to defeat the Carolina Cobras, Northern Virginia Force, Bayada Diamond Pro and finally the Virginia Vipers in a terrific championship game, prevailing 18-17.

In the 60 AAA division, Chesapeake, hailing from Maryland, outlasted the competition for three straight victories, eventually facing Hamel 60's in the championships. Hamel's forced an 'IF' game winning the first, 17-12. But Chesapeake came back strong in the 'IF' to take the division, 18-15.

The 60 AA division featured a best two-out-of-three series with the Syracuse Cyclones going head to head against the Ohio Silverados. In the end, the Silverados made short work of the Cyclones, sweeping them in two straight, 25-14 and 28-16.

The 65 AAA division featured five teams and it had an abundance of close, competitive ball games. In bracket play, Stahl Post knocked top-seeded Spicer Properties into the loser's bracket.

Mid-Atlantic Cavaliers defeated Spicer, 16-9, to jump into the championship. Mid-Atlantic was able to snag a victory by the slightest of margins, 16-15, to force an 'IF' against Stahl Post. Stahl Post, came back in the 'IF' defeating Mid-Atlantic, 15-14, to win the division title.

Eight teams made up the 70 AAA division with Money Joe's grabbing the top seed to begin bracket play. However, Monkey Joe's would make an early exit after losing two in a row to the Carolina Cardinals and Pittsburgh Gold. Vacar Stars defeated the Cardinals, 6-4, setting up a match-up with Bailey Talent Cavaliers in the finals. Vacar Stars made quick work of the Cavaliers with a 21-7, victory in the championship game.

The Women's 40 Masters division was made up of four teams: Team Works, Lew's Crew, Desert Falls/Sportsman, and MoTown Magic. Team Works snuck by MoTown Magic 9-8, while Lew's Crew defeated Desert Falls 19-18 in the first round. Team Works ended up facing Lew's Crew in the finals with Lew's Crew forcing an 'IF' game in a 17-16 victory. Team Works found their groove in the 'IF' and won the championship with a 19-10 victory.

“We would really like to thank Dave Carver from Loudon County Parks and Recreation as well as Randy House for their dedication and hard work, which helped make this tournament a success,” said McElroy.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Atlantic Coast Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.

Magic City Brings Luck to Teams in Alabama at Southern Championships

By Beth Hamilton
Softball News Report

BIRMINGHAM, ALA. – 25 teams from 6 states arrived here in mid-August to compete in the Southern Championships, marking the seventh straight year that the Magic City has hosted the highly popular tournament.

The weather was perfect for the kickoff of the tournament. Alabama was a beautiful 75 degrees with no humidity, allowing all the teams not to worry about fighting to win their games and beat the heat together.

Since the weather was perfect, the directors decided to try to finish the games before Sunday. Therefore all but two games were done Saturday night. It was a perfect idea because as soon as the last game of the tournament ended, the rain began to fall.

The first games kicked off on Thursday in the 65 Gold Division.

By Friday it was a battle to the finish between the top two seeds. The second-seeded Panhandle Hitmen won a close one 28-25 and the title of 65-Major Champions. Custom Graphics was then chosen as the 65-AAA Champions.

Columbus LX battled to gain the title of champions by double dipping the Alabama Masters in the 60 Silver division bracket. This all started in the round-robin games with the two battling to see who was the better team. Eventually after four games against each other, Columbus LX came out on top 22-6.

With the 55AAA and the solo 60 Major Plus team competing for the title, the bracket was hot. All teams including the No. 5 seed, Dixie Senior Softball, were in the race for the title.

After winning four games in bracket play, Dixie Senior Softball beat Columbus 55 to win the division

27-18.

The Lighthouse Lookouts, a new team from Chattanooga, Tenn., came out to compete in the 50 AAA Division. After being the only team to win all three round-robin games, they had confidence going into the title game. Magnolia Softball put up a good fight but eventually Lighthouse Lookouts beat Magnolia 16-10 to win the 50 AAA title.

Monster Softball and Adictiv Sports fought it out for 50 Major title throughout the weekend. In the end, the second-seeded Adictiv Sports prevailed 24-22 for the title over the top-seeded Monster Softball.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Southern Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.



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Teams From 9 States Kick Off First RMC

By Giovanni Crotti
Softball News Report

AURORA, COLO. - The Inaugural Rocky Mountain Championships (RMC) drew 41 teams to the beautiful Aurora Sports Complex here in August.

The teams were delighted with the great weather and the top-notch fields that the Rocky Mountain Championships offered the players. Twenty-nine teams from Colorado and 12 teams from states as far away as Minnesota came to see if they could beat the best and lock up their invitation to the Tournament of Champions.

The 50 Major division featured four teams from three different states. After an impressive 3-0 record in the seeding round, Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder went undefeated yet again in bracket play to win the first place prize beating the El Paso Spurs 18-9 in the championship game.

Jimmys/Ancell 55 scored a 55 Major championship for Minnesota in the Men's 50/55 Gold Division. Jimmys/Ancell 55 won every game they played including the 28-16 title game against Rio Grande from New Mexico. By virtue of their placement, Rio Grande ended up being the 50AAA champion.

Minnesota Masters/White kept the momentum going for teams from its home state in the 55/60 Gold Division. They sported a 6-0 record overall in the tournament and were declared the 60 Major winner after their championship game victory over Integrity Builders, 14-7. Integrity Builders from Nebraska was declared the 55AAA division winner as they placed highest in their age category.

After the Mountain Men entered the Men's 50/55AA division bracket as the last seed, the softball team from Utah caught fire at the right time and won three straight games to become the 50AA champ. The Dallas Spurs, who were defeated 31-19 in the championship game, were declared the 55AA champion.

Reyes Logistics from Texas outlasted the competition in the five-team 60AAA bracket to win the



division and book their invite to the Polk County, Florida.

In the battle of Scrap Iron teams, Scrap Iron Diamonds reigned supreme as they beat Scrap Iron Freedom in the "IF" game, 19-9, to take the 60/65AA division.

High 5 proved that there is

meaning in their name as they went a perfect 5-0 in the tournament to win the Men's 65 Gold division and be declared the 65 Major champion. High 5 breezed through the bracket as they won by margins of 13, 14 and 14 runs in their games. Scrap Iron Phiten, as the highest finishing 65AAA team, took that division's honor.

The 70AA division went to an "IF" game to decide the fate of two evenly matched teams. Mid-America Patriots from Missouri forced an "IF" game as they beat the previously unbeaten TNT, 15-12, in the championship game. TNT from Nevada avenged their first loss of the tournament and beat the surging Mid-America Patriots, 16-7, in the "IF"

game. New Concepts I out of New Mexico fought to force an "IF" game in the 75AAA bracket after they lost their first game to the Scrap Iron 75's team. In the "IF" game, New Concepts completed the comeback as they prevailed by a touchdown, 14-7.

Two power 80's teams squared off in the 80AAA division. Texas Classics dropped the Scrap Iron 80's in two heavily contested games, 15-11 & 20-19 to claim stake as the 80AAA champion.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Rocky Mountain Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.

Jim Sherman Northwest Championships Returns to Portland; Attracts 34 Teams

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

PORTLAND - The 8th annual Jim Sherman Memorial Northwest Championships returned to Portland this year after a two-years in Washington State.

The Northwest Championships drew 34 teams from California, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Canada here in late August. The Northwest Championships were renamed in 2010 following the death of long-time SSUSA National Director Jim Sherman, who played a pivotal role in helping SSUSA establish CPR certification for tournament directors. The weather cooperated perfectly for the entire tournament as William V. Owens Softball Complex provided an excellent backdrop for some tremendous softball.

The 40-Masters division saw offense and lots of it. Vancouver USA edged out a victory over Team Combat 28-27 in the semifinals and then defeated Team Combat 31-24 for the championship.

The 50 Platinum division consisted of four teams vying for supremacy. Doerflinger, as the second

seed, fought their way past Enviro-Vac and Southern Oregon Flatliners in two close games, 16-14 and 14-11. They were then pitted once again against Enviro-Vac but were able to beat them easily, 20-4, to win the division.

The 50/55 AAA division was full of great ball and close games. Alaska Kings, as the No. 1 seed, was knocked into the loser's bracket in round one. They were able to force an 'IF' game by beating The Rock WSC, in the championship. The Rock WSC bounced back to win the game 22-11 for the division championship.

The 55/60 Platinum division was represented by five teams from California, Oregon and Washington. In an unexpected turn of events, No. 5 seed Y-Bar & Grill prevailed against Goodman Racing in the championship, 15-14 and then won the 'IF' game, 15-14.

The 55/60 Silver bracket was dominated by Aro Glass Clubbers as the 60 AAA champion. No. 4 seed Vancouver 55 was eventually defeated by Aro Glass after clawing their way through the loser's bracket, however they were awarded the champions of the 55 AA division.

In the 60 Major division, Enviro-

Vac Marauders and Nor Cal Storm competed in a best-of-three format. Enviro-Vac won the first game 18-12. Nor Cal Storm awoke after the first game and they were able to rattle off two victories in a row 22-17 and 29-27 to take the 60 Major title.

In the 60 AA division, Northwest Silver held their opponents to 12 runs or less in three straight games, eventually outlasting Stagecoach 20-12 for the division title.

W.E. Ruth Realty proved themselves just good enough to claim the 65 Major title. In a three-team bracket, as the top seed, W.E. Ruth Realty defeated Minnesota Prize Co. by the slimmest of margins in two straight games. They would prove victorious winning 11-10 and 22-21 for the championship.

The 65/70 Gold division Oregon Roadrunners needed two games to claim the division championship. They defeated PDR/Fastsigns 8-7 in the semifinals and once again in the championship 26-9.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Northwest Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.



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27 ISA World Games Decided by a Single Run

By Jerry Jackson
Softball News Report

COLOMBUS, IND. – The 2013 ISA Senior World Championship drew 43 teams here from the United States and Canada from July 26-28.

The ISA Senior World, sponsored by the Columbus Indiana Visitors Center, was played on eight diamonds at Lincoln Park and the Dunn Sports Complex. Some of the ISA's top directors and a fantastic grounds crew worked hard to maintain a fresh field of play for all teams throughout the tournament.

With more than 135 games played in the 11 divisions, there were 27 one-run ball games and 66 games were decided by less than a five-run margin, proving that the event was packed full of talent and excellent competition.

In the Men's 50 Major/Major Plus Division, four Major teams from three states and one Major Plus team competed for the 50 Major title. The undefeated OKI, a 50 Major+ team, claimed the 2013 Senior World title beating out the 50 Major teams. Winning the 50 Major title was Chicago Prime who beat Team Ohio 22-12.

In the Men's 50 AAA Division, four teams competed to claim a 2013 ISA Senior World Championships title. WC Thunder from Illinois marched through the bracket to knock off KEC of Illinois in the Championship by a score of 15-7.

In the Men's 55 AAA Division, five teams from five states competed.



Central Illinois Chief's faced the Milwaukee Merchants of Wisconsin in the winner's bracket final. With a score of 15-5, the Chief's clinched a spot in the championship game.

The Dayton Legends of Ohio came out swinging from the losers bracket in the Championship game and forced the "IF" game with a score of 26-18. The final game proved to be one of the best at the event with the Chief's beat the Legends 21-19 to claim 55 AAA title.

In the Men's 55 Major Division, six teams from five states competed with Smith's Laminating fighting hard through five games to make it to the championship game where they met the undefeated Kinnco Services. Kinnco Services won 30-12, claiming their 2013 ISA Senior World title.

In the Men's 55 Major-Plus Division, Line Drive Salsa Bombers of Michigan and Jim & Joe's Ice of Kentucky faced off to play a best two-out-three game series. Line Drive took the first game 14-13, but Jim & Joe's fought back in the second game with a score 32-23. In the final game, Line

Drive claimed the ISA Senior World 65 Major-Plus title by a score of 28-7.

In the Men's 60 Major Division, three teams battled it out with Handeland Flooring of Wisconsin winning.

In the Men's 60 AAA Division, five teams from four states competed. The Dayton Legends faced the Mid State Seniors in the winner's bracket final. Dayton beat Mid State 25-6 dropping Mid State into the loser's bracket and guaranteeing Dayton Legends a spot in the championship game. The Windsor Chief's of Canada beat Mid-State, to advance to the championships, but Dayton won the final game - and the 60AAA title - 16-12.

In the Men's 65 Major Division, DeClaire Knee of Michigan and High Five of Minnesota faced off to play a best 2 out of 3 game series. High Five double dipped DeClaire with scores of 20-6 and 24-20 to claim their 2013

ISA Senior World title.

In the Men's 65 AAA Division, 5 teams from 4 different states competed with Michaels of Wisconsin going undefeated.

In the Men's 65 AA Division, Indiana Legends/Columbus and U.S. Jobs met in the winner's bracket final and by a score of 19-18 the Legends punched their ticket to the championship game. U.S. Jobs fell to the loser's bracket to face the Dayton Legends. U.S. Jobs won to force a rematch against the Legends. U.S. Jobs battled through the championship game and won 17-11 forcing the "IF" game. U.S. Jobs hitting streak then ed them to their 2013 Senior World Championship title with a 29-15 win over the Legends.

ISA officials announced that the ISA Senior World Championships will be returning here next year.

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San Antonio, Houston, Austin Win in Texas

By Ross McCulligan
Softball News Report

HOUSTON – The 2013 Texas State Championships welcomed 43 teams here for this prestigious event June 27-30. The tournament continues to grow in popularity and is quickly becoming one of the most premier tournaments in Texas.

The Texas State Championships made its way to the Houston Sportsplex for the first time in history, relocating from Dallas in 2012. Tournament director Keith Parker had nothing but praise for the facility stating, "The Houston SportsPlex is a top-rate facility and the perfect place for this Lone Star State classic."

The tournament was played in extremely hot weather with temperatures reaching triple digits each day. The field crew did an excellent job making sure the fields were kept in pristine condition.

The 50 Major division was made



up of seven teams. San Antonio Softball took the No. 7 seed heading into bracket play but was able to catch fire at the right time. They were able to run off four straight victories against Neway Hendricks Sports, Randy Smith Softball, Team Arkansas, and Wood Law on their way to claiming the division championship.

The 50/55 Gold division witnessed nine teams compete for the championship. The Buc's, hailing locally from Texas, went 2-0 in pool

play and then ran through bracket play quite easily, eventually claiming the top spot after a forfeit from Gonzalez Insulation in the championship game.

Houston Fire was able to take the 50/55 division after only being tested in the championship game. They faced Team Mayhem in the championship game and edged out a tough win, 24-23, to claim the division title.

The 60 Gold division had seven teams, with the No. 6 seed San Antonio Silver Streaks stealing the show. They beat the Texas Thunder, Texas Heat, Texas Lonestars and Texas Thunder once again on their road to the championship.

The 60 AA division was claimed by the top seeded Scrap Iron Diamonds. They claimed the No. 1 seed heading into the three-team bracket but lost their first game to Texas Pickups, 12-9. The Diamonds were forced to defeat San Antonio Mission Classics, 24-10, for their shot at revenge

against the Pickups. Scrap Iron ended up double dipping the Texas Pickups, defeating them 6-5 in the 'IF' game, to take the championship home to Colorado.

The 65/70 Gold division played a modified format due to a late team drop out and some weather interference. In the end, the Texas Legends squared off against San Antonio Legends for the championship. San Antonio Legends outlasted the Legends, 19-8, to claim the division.

The 70/75 Gold division played a round-robin format throughout to decide a champion. Hill Contracting Austin, was able to go 5-0 to outlast the other five teams in the division. They defeated the Texas Greyhounds, 20-4, in their final pool play game.

For complete scores, bracket results, and All Tournament Player lists, please visit the Texas State Championships Tournament page at www.seniorsoftball.com.

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