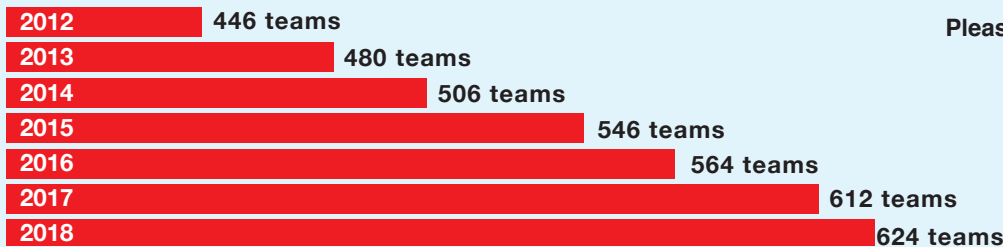




Photo by Jack Eberhard

Stix With Impact (CA), Women's 50, Will Look to Repeat in 2018

**Number of teams that have played in the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships**



Please See Page 20

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## Ms. Senior USA Celebrates Women Over 60

### Softball News Report

**T**heir stories are meant to inspire senior women – and they range from a World War II veteran to a pickleball champion to an iTunes singer.

The Senior Pageants Group (Ms. Senior USA and Ms. Senior Universe) honors and celebrates the lives and accomplishments of women over 60. Please See Page 6



Photo by Jack Eberhard

Ms. Senior USA crowned Ms. Senior Florida (2017-2018) and Founding Ms. Senior Florida (2017-2018) during the annual banquet at the 2018 Tournament of Champions last February in Polk County, Fla.

## New Legs Propel Vets to Active Sports Life

### TRENDS

### Softball News Report

**T**he idea, with deep roots of hope and determination, emerged from the smoke and carnage of the battlefields of war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan.

And it was beautifully simple: David Van Sleet wanted to give combat veterans who Please See Page 4



Photo Courtesy of David Van Sleet

Carlo Adame of the Louisville Slugger Warriors.





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# Senior Softball News

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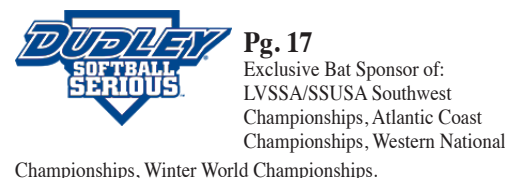
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# Prosthetics: New Models Next Best Thing to Real Leg

Continued from Page 1

lost limbs the opportunity to play ball again.

Since 2011, when Van Sleet launched the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, more than 50 combat veterans who lost limbs have competed – some at a high level.

As the creator and founder of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST), Van Sleet served as the team's head coach, general manager and chief executive officer from 2011 to 2015.

He later served as the general manager of the Louisville Slugger Warriors Softball Tournament Team from 2016-17, and most recently in 2018, Van Sleet was named general manager of the Louisville Slugger Warriors Amputee Baseball Team.

"I possessed the four pieces to the puzzle," said Van Sleet, regarding the creation of the amputee team. "US Army Veteran; prosthetic education; employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); and played, coached and managed softball teams for over 40 years."

"I saw the amputees coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan and the idea was formulated. I have introduced over 50 amputee veterans and active duty personnel to the game of softball."

Van Sleet, an Army veteran who served in the Vietnam era, worked in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in the field of Prosthetics for 30 years in both clinical and administra-

tive roles, before retiring in 2011. In 1996, Van Sleet was selected and honored as the VA Prosthetic Chief of the Year. At the height of both the Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom) and Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom) Wars, Van Sleet served as the VA Prosthetics Manager of New England and then Southwest.

In 2013, the Military Order of the Purple Heart presented Van Sleet with its highest award, the George Washington Medallion of Merit Award for his work developing the program.

In 2011, Van Sleet was awarded the VA's highest award, the prestigious Olin E. Teague Award that recognizes an employee with the VA whose achievements have been extraordinarily beneficial to the rehabilitation of war-injured veterans.

As more and more amputees join teams and compete, advancing technology is helping them play at higher and higher levels.

Among the 50 amputee veterans and active duty personnel that have played for Van Sleet is Carlo Adame, U.S. Army Sergeant First Class (Ret.).

Adame, a second baseman on the LS Warriors, has been a benefactor of the technological advancements in prosthetics. Adame, a right side BKA (Below Knee Amputation), recently received a new prosthetic built by Greg Davidson, Certified Prosthetist Orthotist (CPO) and founder of Davidson Prosthetics.

Adame, now retired from the military and a service-connected veteran, served four

tours in Iraq, but suffered an amputation of his right lower leg in a non-combat injury while still in the service.

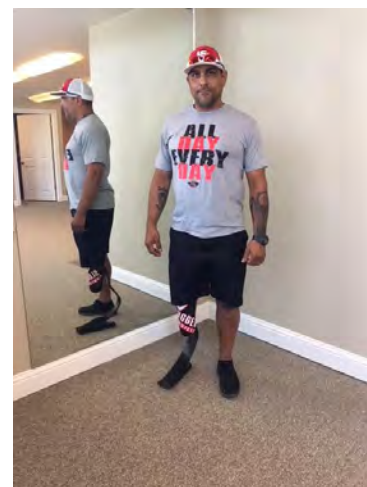
"The increased rear curve produces more dynamic movement of the spring when running or doing high impact sports," said Davidson in describing the prosthetic (see picture below). "It looks wild, but walks extremely well and is amazing for baseball! He (Carlo) prefers to not use it in a shoe, so I installed mountain bike tire for tread, and showed him how to re-tread it so he can keep the tread in good shape. He plans to use it for everyday activity and softball/baseball."



**Carlo Adame's latest prosthetic built by Greg Davidson**

"The performance of the newest design is amazing!" said Adame. "With this model, my agility is better than ever. It's the next best thing to a real leg. Right now, I'm just seriously wowed by how awesome this prosthetic is. With this leg, I can pivot better than ever."

"It is ridiculous how comfortable and effortless it is in my ability to stop fast and then take off in a full sprint.



**Carlo Adame sporting his latest prosthetic from Greg Davidson**

I have the running/sprinting ability of the running leg, but it's also very comfortable to walk in, which is huge if you're an athletic person into intense sports."

Davidson takes great pride in doing his own fabrication work, which he says is rare in the industry, but a tremendous advantage to his patients.

"I have pioneered and developed a new prosthetic foot concept that represents a significant advancement in prosthetic technology," said Davidson. "It is an effort to maximize the carbon spring length in prosthetic design, resulting in an extremely energetic, lightweight, dynamic feel when walking. I shared my findings with the Ossur company, which lead to the creation of a product called the Cheetah Xplore. I have had astonishing success with this extraordinary concept, and have seen it change lives and improve function for so many amputees. With this design, you will be able to walk easier, faster, further, work

**Continued on Next Page**



# Prosthetics: Wounded Warriors Given a Second Chance

**Continued from Previous Page**

harder, and enjoy high-impact sports including running.”

“I have developed new ways to implement flexible materials and strategic cushioning in all types of prosthetic sockets,” continued Davidson. “This greatly improves socket comfort, and has allowed me to resolve chronic fitting problems with many of my amputees. Once I get a perfect fit in a hard test socket, building the finished carbon fiber socket with the flexible, cushioned inner socket greatly enhances the comfort and function of my amputees, and allows me to easily perform shape and volume adjustments as needed in the future.”

With the increased number of wounded soldiers returning home from war, along with competitive sporting events such as the Paralympics, the need for top performing prosthetics is in high demand.

“When I was with the Department of Veterans Affairs and saw the type of injured military personnel returning

from Iraq and Afghanistan with amputations my initial goal was just to introduce and teach them the game of softball,” said Van Sleet.

“That idea turned into the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team that I created. After five years with the WWAST, I stepped down and was asked to create a more competitive softball team that played softball tournaments.”

“There were amputee players who strived to play at a more competitive and higher level playing tournaments. These players grew up playing baseball, so the next challenge was for them to play competitive baseball with 90 foot bases, nine innings and three-hour game time limits.”

“It has been remarkable to see how these amputee ballplayers have exceeded their rehabilitation goals and are playing at a very competitive level. Never did I expect any of this to materialize and gain the amount of attention it has, but the real winners in all of this are the players who were given another chance at being ballplayers and athletes again.”



Louisville Slugger Warriors pitcher looks to strike the mat in an exhibition game against the 2018 TOC All-Stars.



Player on the Louisville Slugger Warriors running around the bases in an exhibition game against the 2018 TOC All-Stars.



Carlo Adame bats during the Louisville Slugger Warriors exhibition game against the 2018 TOC All-Stars.



Louisville Slugger Warriors fielder attempts to throw out a runner during an exhibition game against the 2018 TOC All-Stars.



# Ms. Senior USA: More Than Just Queens

Continued from Page 1

"We provide a platform for these women to tell their stories," said Kathleen "Kat" Ray, founder and chair of Senior Pageants Group.

These women and daughters of "The Greatest Generation" have quite a story to tell, such as Gladys Hughes, 96, a 2017 Honorary Ms. Super Senior USA, who served during World War II.

"I enlisted in the service in 1944 in Omaha, Nebraska, in the Coast Guard SPAR," said Hughes in a 2012 interview with The Cut. "I was only in for 14 months when the war ended. They dropped the atom bomb the day after I got married. My husband had enough points that he didn't have to go to Japan. He came

home from England on D-Day. After the military, I went back to school on the G.I. Bill and became a high school speech and drama teacher for 30 years."

Then there is Marilyn O'Connell, 90, 2018 Ms. Super Senior (75+) First Runner-Up, who won Gold at the 2014 USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) Nationals VI Tournament in the Women's Doubles 80+ Division.

Donna McGuffie, 2017 Ms. Senior USA and Ms. Senior Universe, has an album on iTunes; while Dr. Ida White, a 2018 finalist from the U.S. Virgin Islands, had her home destroyed by Hurricane Irma.

SSUSA teamed up with Senior Pageants Group in



**Kat Ray, founder and chair of Senior Pageants Group performs the National Anthem during the Opening Ceremonies of Session Four of the 2017 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.**

2016, as senior queens have performed the national anthem at numerous SSUSA events, such as the opening ceremonies of the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Champion-

ships, Winter World Championships, and the annual banquet at the Tournament of Champions.

## SoCal All-Tourney Teams Announced

The Southern California State Championships had a new host in 2018, as the City of Lancaster and the Big 8 Softball Complex hosted 38 teams, June 22 – 24.

A total of nine teams would go on to secure a berth to the Tournament of Champions (TOC), held annually in February in Polk County, Florida.

The largest division was the 11-team Men's 40 Gold Division, which was won by Wicked Sports/PT Express (CA).

To read the full recap that appeared in the Newsletter, please [CLICK HERE](#).

### Women's 40 Major

TKP 40's (CA) – Kimberly Roter, Elena Song, Lillie



Green, Carolyn Norman, Tamaru Francis.

### Women's 40/50 Gold

Old School 50 (CA) – Debbie Baye, Tani Duke, Jana Sissenstein, Alma Guzman, Deena Dobbins. / Vegas Vintage 40 (NV) – Chris Evans, Tami Habig, Elizabeth Kitlinger, Melinda Pagel, Nancy Grove Kemp. / Pro Moves 40 (CA) – Jennifer Cheng, Rosa Salas,

Lori Jarrells.

### Men's 40 Gold

Wicked Sports/PT Express (CA) – Willie Galaz, William Taveras, Eric Ramirez, Robert Marcado, David Lope.

### Men's 50/55 Platinum

Stadium 50 (CA) – Donald Aragon, Andrew Lineberger, Steve Stout, Danny Gutierrez, Joseph (Ed) Lujan. / L.A.F. 50 (CA) – Donnie Hudson, Wayne Zucker, John Patterson, Glen Zeigler. / So Cal 55 (CA) – Dave Barretto, Fernando Hill, Jeff Iannone.

### Men's 55 Major

Hard Tens/Oxnard Rookies (CA) – Steven Johnson, Doug Hamlet, Michael Leighty, Jamie Lagos, Andy Mendoza.

### Men's 50/55 AAA

Kamikaze 55 (CA) – Virgil Angel, James Gillete, Steve

Moore, Vic Goodell, Eric Jacobsen. / Horn Softball 50 (CA) – Luis Valdez, Daniel Sullivan, Mark Vilums, Robert Reistad. / Lights Out 55 (CA) – Mike Berg, Leslie Strodes, Michael Piccinonno.

### Men's 60 Major

Sin City (NV) – Richard Lee Bass, Jr., Young C. (Rick) Nelson, Brian Graham, Gary Gosz. / Wongs (CA) – Raul Ravago, Jack Doty, Joseph Aranda.

### Men's 60 Silver

Kamikaze Silver (CA) – Mike Seems, George Martinez, Jose Hernandez, Mario Borroel, Pablo Garcia, Jr.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)



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# Opinions & Letters

## 85's Great Example For All Players

Players, managers and fans of Senior Softball will have an opportunity to see some of the finest players in their sport at the upcoming Senior Softball World Championships in Las Vegas.

For the fifth year, SSUSA will be hosting a divisional championship for those 85 and older on Sept. 24-27.

Will they be seeing booming home runs or a spirited race from first to third base? Or a diving catch deep in the outfield grass?

Probably not. But what they will see is the game of softball played as it should

be...for the simple joy of it. Now mind you, every single one of these senior players wants to win, but that's not their only goal in taking the field.

They genuinely love the game, their teammates and, yes, even their opponents. They find happiness in simply playing the sport – and they set an example for all of us playing at any age and time.

And if we're lucky enough, in the not too distant future, these elder statesmen of softball will be setting a new example with a 90-year-old division!



Sue Ballenger

## NorCal All-Tourney Teams Announced

Senior Softball-USA and CAN-Sirs once again teamed up for the Fourth Annual Northern California State Championships.

A total of 60 teams competed in Sacramento (Sacramento Softball Complex) and Lincoln (Foskett Regional Park), June 26 – July 1. Eleven teams would go on to capture their bids towards the Tournament of Champions (TOC) in Florida this February.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full recap that appeared in the Newsletter.

### Women's 40/50 AAA

Old Nasty Curves 40 (CA) – Melinda Rovetti, Glenda

Forbing, Kelly Gollan, Gina Araujo.

### Men's 50/55 Platinum

KM Sportz 50 (CA) – Ed Odasz, Chris Cockrum, Allen Guy, Ron Alvarado, Tracy Kuykendall. / Nor Cal Warriors 55 (CA) – Brad White, Ron Graves, Paul Supat, Lyman Rose. / MTC 60's/Dudley (CA) – Gary Robertson, Bill Moranville, Rennie Owyang.

### Men's 50/55 Gold

Stanislaus Sluggers 50 (CA) – Ray Oliver, Mark Zurilgen, Donald Stogdell, Earl Boles, Mike Radcliffe. / Sacramento Flash 50 (CA) – Tony Silva, Keith Brenner, William Terrell, Jr.

### Men's 55/60 Gold

Tri-C/Incrediwear 55 (CA) –

Omar Randle, David Gonzales, Darryl Watson, Gerome Gibson, DeMontro Davis.

### Men's 60 Silver

Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO) – Danny Silvey, Gary Peterson, John Bellatti, Barry Jark, Gregg Pearson. / Senior Bend Elks (OR) – Dan Thompson, Butch Maciel, Pete Folger.

### Men's 65/70 Gold

Omen 70 (CA) – Bob Cummings, Ellwin Jobe, David Sells, Jerry Scanlan, Bill Steele. / No Dice/Bay Photo Lab 65 (CA) – Jack Wabinga, Jerry Amato, Kevin Buchanan, Lew Jones, Carl White.

### Men's 70/75 Gold

Sacramento Islanders 70 (CA) – Michael Berlant, Bill Davenport, Jerry Enfield,

Hank Hoyer.

### Men's 70 AA

Direct Sales Flooring (CA) – Dan DeClercq, Raymond (Tony) Gorgone, Murray Herriman, Dave Hoge, Bob Muegge. / Triple Play (CA) – James Grubb, Lanny Witt, Larry Sargent, Steve Schwartz. / Valley Fog (CA) – Steve Foster, Hershell Hamilton, Glen Jenkins.

### Men's 80 AAA

Sacramento Gold (CA) – Ray Newman, Charlie Partin, Sam Sekikawa, Dale Stykel.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)



# Checks and Balances Certify Appeals Board

Senior Softball-USA established an appeals process for suspensions almost two decades ago to protect players, managers and teams.

Before that process was instituted, any suspension issued by the main office was final. Fortunately in Senior Softball, we have very few incidents that result in suspensions. In fact, we normally only have one or two a year.

There was a suspension this year that illustrated just why this process is necessary.

This spring a team entered a tournament as an exhibition team because it planned on using an under-age player. Later, the team played as a regular qualifying team (not exhibition) after a discussion between the manager and the director.

It was determined that the underage player did indeed play in a couple of games with the team.

The issue came to me for an initial ruling. I applied the

rulebook penalties (Rule 15.1 (6):

1. The player was suspended for 10 years from the time he would have been legally eligible to play (a total 12-year suspension).

2. The manager was suspended for the balance of the 2018 season and the entire 2019 season.

The player and manager were each given 30 days to appeal the suspensions – and both appealed.

I appointed a three-member Appeals Board made up of three National Directors who were not involved in the incident to ensure a fair hearing.

After reviewing the documents from the director, the manager and the player, they ruled:

1. The player's suspension was unanimously lifted because the board believed he had acted in good faith in playing because the manager told him the team was playing exhibition.

## Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

2. The manager's suspension was upheld by a 2-1 vote because the board believed he was responsible for making clear the team was playing exhibition. The dissenting vote was for a reduction in the manager's suspension for just the current season because of potential confusion in his discussions with the director. However, the other two Appeal Board members agreed with the full suspension.

Not long after the manager and player were notified, I received an email from one of the team's players requesting I overrule the Appeal's Board decision regarding the manager's suspension. He said that I was the CEO and could easily override the decision.

This was my answer:

"I will not overrule an Ap-

peals Board decision. The Appeals Board was established as a check on the executive power of the CEO. I make the initial rulings, but appeals go to a board of three neutral National Directors. Their decision is final."

I've had the privilege of being CEO of Senior Softball USA for almost two decades. With that privilege comes the responsibility to act in the best interests of the sport. To me, that means making sure there are real checks and balances.

While we never claim to be perfect, fairness is our continuing goal. After all, the strength of any sports organization is its ability to provide an even playing field for those who love the game.

*Terry Hennessy is the chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at [terryh@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:terryh@seniorsoftball.com).*

# Southern All-Tourney Teams Announced

For the first time in its history, the Southern Championships were held in North Carolina at Parrish Womble Park, Aug. 17-19. The tournament previously had an 11-year run in Birmingham, Ala.

Twelve teams competed across four divisions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full tournament recap that appeared in the Newsletter.

## Men's 50 Gold

Carolina Five-0 (NC) – Richard Kirk, James Pearson, Jeff Lester, Gregory Watkins, Anthony Holmes. / Big Bottom Brewery/Evolve Salon (PA) – Dana Howard, Stephen Firestone, Brad

Feik, Luke Melhorn. / Globe Trailers (FL) – John Hern, Glenn Looper, Kendal Shaw.

## Men's 55 Major

Woodlawn Funeral Home (VA) – Michael Watson, Derek Cooper, Kenneth Beckett, James Burns, James Roberts.

## Men's 60 AAA

Lewisville Masters (NC) – Jerry Lawson, Jimmy Johnson, Larry Johnson, Terry Spillman, Steve Leitner.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)



# 51 Teams Battle in Northern Championships

LANSING, Mich. – The 12th annual Northern Championships was held here in mid-August for a 10th straight year. East Lansing Softball Complex and Lake Alliance Softball Complex hosted 51 teams from around the Midwest (Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin), as well as New York (one team) and Canada (five teams).

Starting with the five-team Men's 65 Silver Division, MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI) posted a perfect 3-0 record in bracket play, including a thrilling 20-19 walk-off win over top seed Ohio Silverados in the championship game. MP Components/Bomb Squad also edged out Ohio Silverados 21-20 earlier in the bracket to knock the team down into the elimination side of the bracket. Ohio Silverados scored seven runs in the top of the open before falling short. Blue Chips (IL) finished in third place after winning a pair of games in the elimination bracket.

Another five-team division, the Men's 70 Gold Division, saw top seed Windsor Chiefs (Ontario, Canada) go



undefeated. The team from North of the Border went 2-0 in seeding to lock up the No. 1 seed, before going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 21-20 nail-biter over Chicago Strikers in the championship game. Chicago Gray Sox finished in third place following a pair of wins in the elimination side of the bracket.

Moving onto the eight-team Men's 50 Major Division, No. 1 seed PDC (MI) ran the table, going 2-0 in seeding play, before rattling off four straight wins in bracket play, including a 25-15 win over Homer Lovers (Ontario, Canada) in the championship game. WC Thunder (IL) finished in third place after going 2-1 in the elimination bracket.

Lansing Legends Soft-

ball Club won the eight-team Men's 50 AAA Division, going undefeated for the weekend, going 2-0 in seeding play and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 19-12 win over Fly Time (MI) in the championship game. Fly Time posted a 3-2 record in the bracket, including an upset 17-9 win over top seed Crawford Contracting (MI). Both of Fly Time's losses came against Lansing Legends. Lakeshore Contracting (Ontario, Canada) finished in third place after scoring a pair of wins in the elimination side of the bracket.

Gray Ghost (IL) swept All-In Softball (IL) in a best two-out-of-three game series by scores of 19-9 and 16-15, to win the Men's 50 AA Division.

Doug and Don's Auto Care (MI) ran the gauntlet in the six-team Men's 55 Major Division, winning six straight games in the elimination side of the bracket, including 20-17 and 17-15 wins over top seed NTG/TMS Michigan in the championship and "if" game, respectively. Doug and Don's Auto fell to Ohio Elite/Creative Stucco/Louis-

ville Slugger, 29-26, earlier in the bracket, to knock the team down into the elimination bracket.

Doug and Don's Auto Care got its money's worth, playing in eight of the 13 bracket games that were played, posting an overall record of 7-1. Ohio Elite ended up in third place.

DC Connection (MI) won the five-team Men's 55 AAA Division, going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 17-4 win over Jackson Merchants (MI) in the championship game. Top seed Windsor Can Am Chiefs (Ontario, Canada) finished in third place, rebounding from a loss in their first game in the bracket against Jackson Merchants 24-23 with a pair of wins in the elimination side of the bracket.

Central Illinois Chiefs won the four-team Men's 60 Major Division, going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 20-9 win over Milwaukee Merchants in the championship game. Top seed JP Motormen (MI) finished in third place. Minutemen/Pepco/SFS (OH), the last seed in the five-team Men's 60 AAA Division, made a Cinderella run through the bracket, going 4-0, including a 31-19 win over Chicago Prime in the championship game. Top seed Playmakers (WI) finished in third place after winning a pair of games in the elimination side of the bracket.

Just One More/McMahon-Coyne-Vitantonio (OH) won the three-team Men's 60 AA Division, going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 17-6 win over top seed Durham Silver Stix (Ontario, Canada) in the championship game. Shannon Fence/CPOA (OH) finished in third place.

[CLICK HERE](#) for complete game-by-game scores.



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# 58 Teams Compete in Rocky Mtn. Champs

AURORA, Colo. – The Sixth annual Rocky Mountain Championships was held here, Aug. 24-26, with 58 teams competing in the Centennial State.

Starting with the Men's 50 Platinum Division, Thunderstruck (AZ) downed Crush 50's (CA) in a best two-out-of-three game series. Thunderstruck would strike first, taking game one 25-15, while Crush evened the series with a 14-11 win in game two. Thunderstruck captured the rubber match with a convincing 30-18 victory.

In the 12-team Men's 50 AAA Division, top seed Elite/Scrap Iron (CO) took full advantage of its home field advantage. The team went 2-0 in seeding play, and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 30-19 win over Alliance/Scrap Iron (CO) in the all-Colorado championship game, to complete a perfect weekend. After losing their first game in the bracket, Alliance/Scrap Iron ran the length of the elimination side of the bracket with six straight wins, including a forfeit win, en route to their runner-up finish. KC Vintage (MO) got off to a hot start winning three straight bracket games, before dropping back-to-back games en route to a third-place finish. Nebraska 50's made a valiant run through the elimination side of the bracket with three straight wins, en route to their fourth-place finish.

The three-team Men's 50/55 AA Division saw top seed Team Panthers (UT) double-dip Manifest 50's (TX) 14-12 (championship game) and 21-20 ("if" game).

Manifest upset Team Panthers, 19-10, earlier in the bracket. Scrap Iron Mile High 55 (CO) finished in third place.

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder 55 (CO) took the three-team Men's 55 Major Division, avenging their 16-15 loss against top seed Never Say Never/Big Al's Trucking (UT) in the championship game, with a 27-14 victory in the "if" game. Nebraska Silver Bullets finished in third place.

Arizona Scorpions 55's edged out Scrap Iron-Colorado Home Fitness (CO), 19-18, in the championship game of the five-team Men's 55 AAA Division. Scrap Iron-Colorado Home Fitness won four straight games in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game. Mountain Men (UT), the last seed in the bracket, finished in third place.

Top Gun Elite (CA) posted a 3-0 record in bracket play in the five-team Men's 60 Major Division, including a 23-17 win over top seed Pope Transport (WI) in the championship game. Arizona Old School finished in third place.

In the 10-team Men's 60/65 Gold Division, Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO) completed an unbeaten weekend, going 2-0 in seeding play to earn the No. 2 seed, and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 20-16 win over Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO), in an

all-Colorado championship game. After dropping their first two games in the three-game guarantee bracket, Scrap Iron Heavy Metal rattled off five straight wins to reach the championship game. Las Vegas Stars (NV) finished in third place.

Top seed Texas Legends 60's double-dipped Classics 60s (UT) in the four-team Men's 60/65 AA Division. In the championship game, Texas Legends cruised to a 17-8 win to force the "if" game, while in the "if" game, Texas Legends completed the comeback with a 20-18 victory. Classics defeated Texas Legends, 24-11, to reach the championship game. Austin Wizards (TX) finished in third place.

Bouncing back from an 0-2 showing in seeding play, Dallas Spurs (TX), the No. 10 seed in the 10-team Men's 65 AAA Division, went 5-0 in bracket play, including a thrilling 14-13 win over Hooks (TX) in the all-Texas championship game. Dallas Spurs won three one-run games in their run to the championship. Scrap Iron Still Kickin (CO) finished in third place. Scrap Iron 5280 (CO)



won three straight games in the elimination side of the bracket en route to a fourth-place finish.

The Men's 70 Major and AAA Divisions each featured a best two-out-of-three game series.

Minnesota P5/Ancell swept Scrap Iron/3n2 (CO) by scores of 25-15 and 33-26, respectively, to win the 70 Major Division.

The Men's 70 AAA Division went all three games, as Scrap Iron 70 Red (CO) took the opening game, 22-18, over PDC Yankees 70s (CO), while PDC Yankees evened the series with a 14-8 win in game two. The third and final game was won by Scrap Iron 70 Red, 19-15.



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# Northerns All-Tourney Teams Announced

The All-Tournament selections from the 2018 Northern Championships are listed below.

First place teams earn five selections, second place earns four selections and third place earns three selections.

## Men's 50 Major

Homer Lovers (ON, C) – Paul Quaresma, Tom Schneider, James Macciocchi, Brad Geil.

## Men's 50 AAA

Lansing Legends Softball Club (MI) – Mike Marshall, Dave Vanderwest, Jeffrey Hohlbein, Patrick Sipkovsky, Ernest Alvarez. / Lakeshore Contracting (ON, C) – Kevin Whitty, Dan Van Horn, Wayne Hall.

## Men's 50 AA

Gray Ghost (IL) – Theron Roberts, Eugene Laird, Kevin Walker, Charles Ocacio, Archie Aaron. / All-In Softball (IL) – Richard Bowlds, Keith Pekau,

Nate Sowell, Kenneth Ingram.

## Men's 55 Major

Doug and Don's Auto Care (MI) – Kirby Herschberger, Randy Burgett, Tod Moorhead, Mark Wilson, Edward Lehnertz. / NTG/TMS Michigan – Rick Berridge, Dan Wolfram, Jeff Moon, Dale Witzzak. / Ohio Elite/Creative Stucco/Louisville Slugger – Michael Negray, Mark Horn, Kelly Ratcliff.

## Men's 55 AAA

Windsor Can Am Chiefs (ON, C) – Wayne Blais, Richard Goyeau, Kirby Parent.

## Men's 60 Major

Milwaukee Merchants (WI) – Donald Laine, James Norton, Brent Puhle, Mark Stasiewicz. / JP Motormen (MI) – Floyd Ellis, Mike Morin, Chris St. Charles.

## Men's 60 AAA

Minutemen/Pepco/SFS (OH) – Terry Valentine, Paul Synek, Ron Seuffert, Dave Reifschneider, Manny Patton. / Chicago

Prime (IL) – Mark Walsh, John Abens, Gary Smith, Scott Eaton.

## Men's 60 AA

Shannon Fence/CPOA (OH) – Mark Vidmar, Jack Harmon, John Sankal.

## Men's 65 Silver

MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI) – Mike Sankey, Jerry De Jongh, Dave Bartlett, Richard Hildebrand, Dennis Ladd. / Blue Chips (IL) – Charles Tarjan, Dean Porzel, Dan Kairis.

## Men's 70 Gold

Windsor Chiefs (ON, C) – Gary Shaw, Billy Wilson, Ernie Holden, John McLaughlin, Ken St. Armour. / Chicago Strikers (IL) – Rawland Freeman, Chuck Flucas, Larry Hall, Mike McLennand. / Chicago Gray Sox (IL) – Rich Douglas, Jerry Santerelli, Wayne Markett.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)

# RMC All-Tournament Teams Announced

The All-Tournament selections from the 2018 Rocky Mountain Championships are listed below.

First place teams earn five selections, second place earns four selections and third place earns three selections.

## Men's 50 AAA

Elite/Scrap Iron (CO) – Hank Twilt, Scott Cameron, Mike Donohoue, Tim Healy, Randy Strandberg. / Alliance/Scrap Iron (CO) – Kevin Graham, Jeff Cox, Robert Maranto, Mike Wilmer.

## Men's 50/55 AA

Team Panthers 50 (UT) – Tony Owen, Don Sandoval, Troy Chapman, Darrell Roberts, Louis Melendez. / Scrap Iron Mile High 55 (CO) – Jeff Wood, Doug Klimas, Dennis Ballesteros.

## Men's 55 Major

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder (CO) – Chris McTigue, Steve Antonczyk, Thomas Edwards, Dave Fortier, Mark Haupt. / Never Say Never/Big Al's Trucking (UT) – James Hansen, Sam He-

usser, James McCaffery, Scott Allington.

## Men's 55 AAA

Arizona Scorpions – Frank Pierce, Larry Beaman, David Higgins, Nick Missos, Edwin Soto. / Scrap Iron-Colorado Home Fitness – Chip Hunnings, Mike Gurnee, Lance Brewer, John Corlett. / Mountain Men (UT) – Jaime Miranda, Jimmy Webb, Roger Larsen.

## Men's 60 Major

Top Gun Elite (CA) – Richard Pratt, Scott Wolters, Mark Purdy, Jim Palecek, Joel Hawk. / Pope Transport (WI) – Lance Riddell, Rich Olson, Andy Weberpal, Mike Brown. / Arizona Old School – Ross Borland, Paul Cooley, Steve Gove.

## Men's 60/65 Gold

Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO) – Arlis Bader, Michael Richardson, Don Difiore, Ed Dilley, John Bellatti. / Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO) – Bruce Brothis, Alan Fejes, Ed Buonaiuto, John Kirar. / Las Vegas Stars (NV) – Joe Napolitano, Dale Palmer, Mike Marshall.

## Men's 60/65 AA

Classics 60 (UT) – Gary Birtcher, Evert Lawton, Dolin Robbs, Doug Brooks.

## Men's 65 AAA

Hooks (TX) – Mike Johnson, Marty Cavazos, Joe Ramon, Reggie Perez. / Scrap Iron Still Kickin (CO) – Raymond Upp, Andy Shapiro, Michael Arisman.

## Men's 70 AAA

Scrap Iron 70 Red (CO) – Wayne Fields, Larry Ouret, Doug Kinney, Ralph Thies, Edward Ponda. / PDC Yankees (CO) – Will Romano, Bill Shaffer, Ron Brooks, Ralph Oberhelman.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)

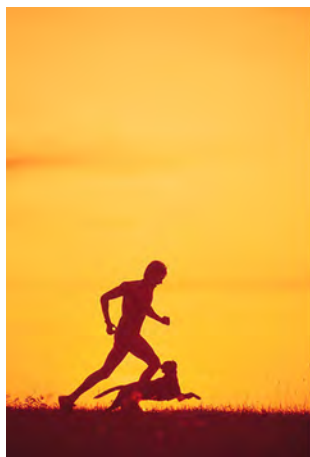
## Heard in the Dugout

"One thing most alumni won't stand for is a college football team that plays like a bunch of amateurs." - G. Norman Collie



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# Drink 16 Ounces of Fluid for Each Pound Lost

**By Stan Reents**

**Senior Softball News Contributor**

In June, a University of Maryland football player died after developing heat stroke during a rigorous practice. His body temp was 106 degrees.

Because of this, and the fact that there continues to be confusion regarding sports drinks, I'll attempt to clarify some details about these popular beverages. But first, some basics.

## How Much Should Athletes Drink?

Obviously, this is the key question. Unfortunately, a precise answer can't be provided, because it really depends on perspiration rate.

Everyone has heard the recommendation to drink eight glasses of water a day, but it's unclear how this originated. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine finally provided some concrete guidelines: men should consume 3.7 liters (almost 4 quarts) per day and women should consume 2.7 liters (almost 3 quarts) per day. Fruits and melons contain a lot of water, so 20 percent of your total daily amount can come from foods.

But, those are just general guidelines for daily intake. They don't apply to athletes. In some settings, athletes can have enormous sweat losses. For example, sweat rates of more than 2 quarts per hour have been measured in football players and tennis players.

The best way to determine how much to drink (to replace sweat losses) is to follow a somewhat complicated procedure developed by Douglas Casa. It involves weighing yourself before and

after the period of heavy sweating, taking into account how much you drank during that time. This procedure is explained in detail in my article "*Fluids and Electrolytes During Exercise*" (<http://www.athleteinme.com/ArticleView.aspx?id=256>) and on the USA Track & Field web site (<http://www.usatf.org/groups/Coaches/library/2007/hydration/index.asp>).

Sports dietitian Nancy Clark offers this simpler rule-of-thumb: weigh yourself, naked, before and after a one-hour workout. For each pound lost, you need 16 ounces of fluid. Divide that amount by 4 and consume that amount every 15 minutes during future exercise sessions.

## What About Electrolytes?

There are a variety of minerals in your body that fall under the title electrolytes. To keep this discussion short, I'll focus only on sodium.

Years ago, marathon runners were encouraged to drink as much as you can. Subsequently, some runners developed hyponatremia (too little sodium in the bloodstream) by drinking too much water. This is a potentially serious condition.

Today, it is recommended that sodium (salt) should also be consumed when replacing sweat losses. This issue can quickly become a medical topic. If you have high blood pressure and/or are taking a diuretic, you should discuss this with your physician.

But, in general, consuming something salty during and after a period of heavy sweating is a good idea. So this is one advantage of sports drinks (eg.,

Gatorade, Powerade, Cytomax) over plain water. And, don't worry about consuming too much sodium from drinking sports drinks. Most brands contain way less sodium than foods you commonly eat.

## Do You Need Carbohydrates, Too?

Strenuous effort can deplete glycogen stores. If it lasts longer than 60 minutes, you should consider consuming some carbohydrates. Thus, here is another benefit that sports drinks have over plain water. The simple sugars (glucose, fructose, sucrose) that are the basis of almost all sports drinks are precisely what exercising muscles need. This is your best source of quick energy.

Simple sugars are rapidly absorbed from the GI tract into the bloodstream. And mixtures of these sugars are more efficient than using only a single one. For example, a sports drink that contains 3 percent glucose and 3 percent fructose is absorbed more rapidly than a 6 percent solution of just one of those two sugars.

Those are some basics. In my next column, I'll highlight the differences between sports drinks and energy drinks, and explain if sports drinks actually improve performance.

*Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional and health/fitness coach. He created the web site [www.AthleteInMe.com](http://www.AthleteInMe.com)®, a resource on the health benefits of exercise. He is also the author of the sports medicine text "Sport and Exercise Pharmacology."*



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# Softball COR/Compression Discussion

By Art Eversole

Senior Softball News Contributor

As SSUSA rolled out their new proprietary senior softball in 2018, I thought this would be an opportune time to discuss two important characteristics of a softball: COR and compression.

First off, the making of a softball vs. a baseball are disparate in their manufacturing processes. Softballs have a circumference of 12 inches and a diameter of 3.8 inches, and weigh about 7 ounces. Unlike baseballs, softballs have an inner polyurethane ball-core (e.g. a synthetic polymer) with a cover stitched and glued to the core. The cover is sometimes leather or more commonly a composite material.

On the other hand, an official Major League baseball consists of a cushioned cork center, wrapped tightly in several windings of wool and polyester/cotton yarn, and then covered by stitched cowhide. A baseball is 9.25 inches in circumference and 2.95 inches in diameter, and weighs 5.25 ounces.

Ball compression rating describes the stiffness or hardness of the ball, while Coefficient of Restitution or COR, describes the "bounciness" of the ball.

The COR value (i.e. Coefficient of Restitution) is how much is given back after the impact with a solid wall during testing. This value indicates how much energy is left over after the ball strikes the immovable object and then bouncing back at a speed lesser than its incoming speed. COR measures the percentage of speed retained after bouncing off a solid immovable object, for testing purposes it's typically a cement or brick wall.

A softball with a high COR value, has an affinity to bounce off any hard surface it comes in contact with, like a solid wall or a softball bat. Consequently, a very high COR rating will not compress the bat barrel as much, which in turn will not maximize ball-exit-speed and distance.

If you were to bounce a .44 COR ball on the street and a .52 COR ball simultaneously, the .52 COR would reach a

greater height off the pavement. Remember, the higher the ball COR value is results in less barrel compression.

The balls that perform the best are the COR=44 or COR=47 coupled with a high compression value of 400lbs or 450 pounds. It's hard to find softballs today that are 525lbs compression or higher as they are found to be too hot for our senior bats. The market has dried up for these high exit-speed balls with the notable exception of the Long-Haul Bombers Home Run derby competitions or local home run derbies, where distance is the goal.

COR table ball elasticity values:

**COR 52**=very bouncy or springy

**COR 47**=medium bouncy

**COR 44**=low to medium bouncy

**COR 40**=much less bouncy

Compression hardness values:

**COMP 275**=extremely soft limited flight

**COMP 325**=soft limited flight

**COMP 375**=top of the scale of limited flight

**COMP 400**=semi-hard found in the ISA ROCKS

**COMP 450**=very hard, too lively for senior bats

**COMP 525** and up=way too hard and are bat breakers

The table values shown above are not intended to be an exhaustive collection of possibilities.

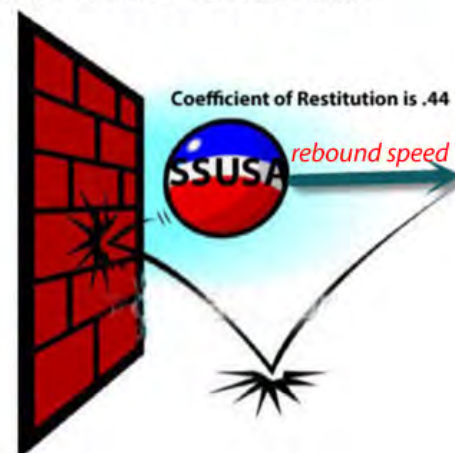
A 52COR/275 pounds compression ball by definition is a sock!

We've all experienced ball compression diminishing with increasing humidity and temperature during tournaments. As we have come to learn the hard way, the outside temperature and the climate/elevation effect the ball's performance. Cooler temps keep the balls harder and higher elevations with less air friction fly farther. Warmer temps will make the ball soft and mushier and performance is degraded.

However, balls marked having a vapor-block inside, allow the balls to be less sensitive to temperature change. As a result performance is not degraded nearly as much when playing those hot afternoon games, where other balls seem



Ball Thrown at Solid Wall...



to go dead. Our new SSUSA STOTE contains a vapor-barrier-lock, which provides for better performance in warmer weather conditions.

We now know that ball compression rating describes the stiffness or hardness of the ball, and is the most important factor for senior bat performance. The Coefficient of Restitution or COR, describes a ball's bounciness. I do believe that the SSUSA STOTE 44Cor/375lbs compression ball, makes for a perfect marriage with our senior bats, allowing for excellent performance as well as safety considerations (see above photos).

Happy Hitting,

Art Eversole

[bashman01@earthlink.net](mailto:bashman01@earthlink.net)



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# Eastern All-Tourney Teams Announced

For the first time in tournament history, the Eastern National Championships was held in the Peach State at Freedom Park in Valdosta, GA. Previous hosts included North Carolina, Illinois, Michigan and New York.

36 teams competed in the tournament, July 31 – August 5, while 15 teams earned a spot in the TOC and 20 teams earning a spot in the U.S. National Game, held during the World Masters Championships.

To read the complete recap that appeared in the Newsletter, please [CLICK HERE](#).

## Women's 40/50 Platinum

Kryptonite 40 (FL) – Carolyn Deeb, Colleen Smith, Veronica Shaw.

## Men's 40 AAA

Live! Casino (MD) – Dave Potts, Barry Holland, AJ King, Brian Fuller, Travis Furr. / Red Eye/RHSK Softball (MD) – Kevin Forrest, David Estep, Shawn Buckler, Troy McCumbee.

## Men's 50 Platinum

Lighthouse Lookouts/Athletic Shop (GA) – Jeff Gordon, Darien Renfroe, Mike Wood, Charlie Brown.

## Men's 50/55 Gold

Team 757 50 (VA) – Adrian Dixon, George Shelby, Fabian Green, Tony Robinson, Darryl Robinson. / Volusia Top Gun 50 (FL) – Scott Venable, Jeff Farney, Kevin Schwoch, Joseph Speroni. / GAP Sports 55 (FL) – Pete Leto, Steven King, Donald Keshock.

## Men's 55/60 Major Plus

RBC Wealth Management 55 (FL) – Craig Knowles, Roger Bard, John Livingston,

Richard Clark, Harold Smith. / Hollis Appraisals 60 (FL) – George Roberts, Cecil Whitehead, Richard Meltz, Larry Toglia. / Florida Stingers – Doug Schram, Peter Bassignani, Louis Reyes, Jr.

## Men's 55 AAA

Vecter Scorpions (FL) – Tom Lowther, Alvin Berkhall, Chuck Torgler, Brian Normandin.

## Men's 55/60 AA

Ted Todd Insurance 60 (FL) – George Kulhanek, Mark Lauer, Steve Brennan, John Truitt, Wayne Maahs.

## Men's 60 Gold

Tasty Pizza (MN) – Duane Johnson, Tom Kubalak, Scott Kevitt, Mark Peterson. / Ameriprise Pompano Crush (FL) – Luis Puentes, Mark Stone, Steven Kambouris.

## Men's 65/70 Platinum

Venom 70 (FL) – James

Davidson, Dennis Schroeder, Clyde Smith, Gary Nicolay, Mike Marcum. / Team Florida 65 – Mike Gainer, Mike Monnier, John Scruggs.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)



# Western All-Tourney Teams Announced

The 2018 Western National Championships was held in Sacramento and Placer counties, July 31-Aug. 5, with a tournament record 130 teams competing to become the best of the best in the West.

29 teams earned a spot in the U.S. National Game, held during the World Masters Championships, while 23 of those teams earned a spot in the TOC.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full recap that appeared in the Newsletter.

## Women's 40 Gold

CCS Fireballerz (CA) – Staci Mosher, Isabel Highman, Corena Morelos, Brenda Ashford, Amanda Summers. / UT-

Relics – Leslie Varoz, Virginia Benard, Kathy Christiansen, Nicole Wilkinson.

## Women's 50 AAA

OnFire/Afoa Insurance (CA) – Laura Afoa, Kimberly Stillman, Rebecca Garcia, Betty Jo Mercer, Tina Duxtater. / NW Lady Warriors/Miken (WA) – Susan Veach, Carrie Davis, Sue Stokman, Victoria Shade.

## Men's 40 Major Plus

GTS (ID) – Joey Smith, Jason Graves, Tim Pemberton, Ryan Barabe.

## Men's 40 Gold

MTC 40s (CA) – Rickey Garza, Elbert Certeza, Carlos Arvizu, Bill Moranville, Brian Willford.

## Men's 50 Major Plus

Northwest Softball/Worth (WA) – Daryl Peterson, Doug Bond, Mance Berry, Dane Idler, Greg Pellegrini.

## Men's 50 Major

CPD/Ancell (MN) – Roy Gruel, Jon Gregersen, Darin Holman, Lou Petersen, Chris Peterson. / L.A.F (CA) – Joe Robertson, Donnie Hudson, John Patterson.

## Men's 50 AAA

Pacific Coast Alliance (CA) – Richard Barretto, Doug Cherry, Wes Reynolds, Larry Jacinto, Mike Stroup.

## Men's 55 Major Plus

Sommerville Softball (CA) – Greg Bovero, Jimmy Ferguson, Robert Robinson, John Heller, Dan Arevalos. / JU Ent/Major Plus (CA) – Rick



Ortega, Wayne Doty, Ricardo Moctezuma.

## Men's 55 Major

D&K Tradition (CA) – Michael Feldman, Ron Bryan, Tom Kohler, Pat Imbriale, John Failla.

Continued on Next Page



# Western All-Tourney Teams Continued

## Continued from Previous Page Men's 55 Silver

Fresno Heat (CA) – Lane Boespflug, Manny Marcial, Walt Strickland, Ed Gracia. / Rogues (OR) – Mike Lerma, Jimmy Rose.

## Men's 60 Major Plus

Summy's (CA) – Greg Brandt, Kim Smylie, Matt Fahring, Mike O'Donnell, Paul Ortiz. / Old Dawgs (CA) – Charlie Pennes, Roger Underwood, Steve Hillman, Bradford Drennan.

## Men's 60 Silver

Senior Bend Elks (OR) – Dan Smith, Ray O'Rear, Mark Fry, Mike Koepf, Ron Landers.

## Men's 65 Major Plus

Rebels (CA) – Paul Smit, Steve Grimm, Barry Oliver, Dan Kibbe.

## Men's 65/70 Platinum

No Dice/Bay Photo Lab 65 (CA) – Otis Green, Alex Luna. Kevin Buchanan, Mark Greene, George Lamb.

## Men's 65 AAA

Sidewinders Desert (AZ) – Bob Hull, John Miller, Ron Scrivner, Arnie Kvarnberg, Bob Schmidt.

## Men's 70 Major

Nor-Cal Stixx (CA) – Dan Burbank, Bud Castro, George Garcia, Steve Etchieson, Rich Ponce. / Game On (CA) – Rod Baker, Eric Hoff, Donny Brazell, Don Heyfron.

## Men's 70 AAA

Sacramento Islanders (CA) – Bruce Allen, Ed Stoessel, Henry Hoyer, Bob Smith, Jon Ellison.

## Men's 70 AA

Triple Play (CA) – Larry Sargent, John Thompson, James Hill, Ralph Putnam, John Noel. / Valley Fog (CA) – Glen Jenkins, Les Kimbley, William Hamilton, Fred Pratt.

## Men's 75 Major Plus

Omen (CA) – Richard DeMarco, William Nevis, Albert Oxley, Joseph Cors, Gary Tryhorn. / San Francisco Seals (CA) – Michael Leitner, William Wilson, Lynn Anglin, Argie Haddock. / General

Equipment (OR) – Clauis Nickleberry, Mike Alley, Frank Laky.

## Men's 75 Major

State Roofing Systems (CA) – Charlie Sherrill, Ray Garcia, Bob Eddy, Edwin Lowe, John Sebring. / Scrap Iron Beams (CO) – Jack Lantz, Jerry Feldman, Tom Imming.

## Men's 75/80 AAA

Sacramento Gold 80 (CA) – Ray Newman, Roland Stiarwalt, Cloicec Wade, Clifford Vierra, Dan Tajbi.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)

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2018 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

Record 624 Teams Set to Compete

**Continued From Page 1**

Last year, a record 612 teams from 39 states, three Canadian provinces and Guam (seven teams) competed in Senior Softball’s largest tournament ever. Over 11,000 players competed, playing in an incredible 2,003 games over the 13-day tournament, across 10 sports complexes and 39 fields.

This year, World Masters Championships (WMC) officials are once again estimating more than 600 teams will flock to this gambling mecca – including a team from Germany and the first International Co-Ed Division.

Due to this high demand, the WMC was expanded to 15 days, as the tournament added an extra day to the first session (Men’s 55 and 60), as well the fourth and final session (Men’s 50).

The Men’s 55 and 60 age divisions will play Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 20 - 23, while the Men’s 65 through 85 age divisions continue Monday-Thursday, Sept. 24 - 27. the Men’s 40 and Women’s 40 and 50 age divisions play Friday-Sunday, Sept. 28 - 30; and the Men’s 50 age division concludes the tournament Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 4 - 7.

The 600-plus teams in the WMC translate to more than 18,000 people, who will infuse more than \$27 million into the local economy.

“It is our pleasure to welcome the more than 600 teams that will make the trip to Las Vegas to compete in the Senior Softball World Masters Championships,” said Pat Christenson, president of Las Vegas Events. “We hope that all of the participants and fans have a great

Please See Page 22



Bud Light Guam looks to turn two en route to their historic 2017 WMC victory in the Men's 40 AAA Division.



National Anthem performance during the Opening Ceremony of Session Two at the 2017 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters. Photos by Jack Eberhard



LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships 2018 Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, Sept. 19:**

**5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager’s Registration Managers for the Men’s 55 and 60 Divisions register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5pm and 7pm at the Headquarters Hotel: Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at registration and the meeting displaying new softball gear and products.

**7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager’s Meeting Managers for the Men’s 55 and 60 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 See Page 24



Player from Dreamgirlz (VA) flashes some leather, as the team completed the Triple Grand Slam in 2017.



Player from Oregon Crabs swings away, as the team would go on to win the Men's 65 AAA Division at the 2017 World Masters Championships.

2018 U.S. National Championship Games

Western National Champion vs. Eastern National Champion

The Eastern National Championships (Valdosta, GA) and the Western National Championships (Sacramento, CA) took place simultaneously, July 31 - August 5. Division winners took the first step towards the Triple Grand Slam.

The winners of the Eastern Nationals will play the winners of the Western Nationals in the one-game, winner-take-all, U.S. National Championship Game, during seeding play in the 2018 World Masters Championships in Las Vegas. These games are the second leg of the coveted Triple Grand Slam, as teams winning the U.S. National Game and their division in the World Masters, along with their victory in the Eastern/Western National, complete the feat.

Additionally, teams winning the U.S. National Game are seeded first in their bracket for the World Masters, while the teams losing the U.S. National Game are placed second in their bracket (only in divisions of five or more teams).

This year, there are 16 U.S. National Games tentatively scheduled to take place.

AGE	DIVISION	WESTERN CHAMPION	EASTERN CHAMPION
WOMEN			
40	Major	Wikkd (CA)	Kryptonite (FL)
MEN			
40	Major Plus	Prestige/Elite Sports OC (CA)	Suncoast Adidas 40s (FL)
	Major	MTC 40's (CA)	S2S/40 Cal (FL)
	AAA	Mach One 40's (WA)	Live! Casino (MD)
50	Major Plus	Northwest Softball/Worth (WA)	Suncoast Adidas 50s (FL)
	Major	CPD/Ancell 50s (MN)	Lighthouse Lookouts/Athletic Shop (AL)
	AAA	Pacific Coast Alliance (CA)	Team 757 (VA)
55	Major Plus	Sommerville Softball (CA)	RBC Wealth Management (FL)
	AAA	Michael's Automotive Group (OR)	Ameriprise Florida Legends
	AA	Spin Tees (WA)	Longshoremen 55 (VA)
60	Major Plus	Summy's (CA)	Hollis Appraisals 60 (FL)
	Major	Sin City (NV)	Tasty Pizza (MN)
	AAA	Senior Bend Elks (OR)	Georgia Alabama Seniors/GAS Softball
65	Major Plus	Timberworks/Adidas (CA)	Team Florida
	Major	No Dice/Bay Photo Lab (CA)	Carolina Cobras (NC)
70	Major Plus	Omen 70 (CA)	Venom 70 (FL)

The following teams do not have an opponent for the U.S. National Game in their respective division and are automatically U.S. National Champions.

- \*CCS Fireballerz (CA) - Women's 40 AAA
- Dreamgirlz 50 (VA) - Women's 50 Major Plus
- \*Old School (CA) - Women's 50 Major
- \*OnFire/Afoa Insurance (CA) - Women's 50 AAA
- \*D&K Tradition (CA) - Men's 55 Major
- Pastimers (WA) - Men's 60 AA
- \*Sidewinders Desert (AZ) - Men's 65 AAA
- \*Nor-Cal Stixx (CA) - Men's 70 Major
- \*Sacramento Islanders (CA) - Men's 70 AAA
- \*Triple Play (CA) - Men's 70 AA
- \*Omen (CA) - Men's 75 Major Plus
- \*State Roofing Systems (CA) - Men's 75 Major
- Triple Play (CA) - Men's 75 AAA
- \*Sacramento Gold (CA) - Men's 80 AAA
- \*These teams are still eligible for the Triple Grand Slam (Won their division in the Western/Eastern National Championships)



# 2018 WMC: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## WMC: No Dice Earns Sportsmanship Award

**Continued From Page 20**  
experience at the ballparks and enjoy everything that Las Vegas has to offer.”

Las Vegas Events, the Title Sponsor of the 2018 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 U.S. National Championship Games and a chance for teams in 36 divisions to win the largest senior tournament ever.

In addition, the top award given by SSUSA annually, the Steve Simmons Memorial Team Sportsmanship Award, will be presented to No Dice/Bay Photo Lab, a Men's 65

Major team from California.

“This award (Steve Simmons Sportsmanship) transcends the game itself,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. “It stands for all that is good in the sport: passionate competition played with good humor and good fellowship - that is the formula for good sportsmanship. The beauty of good sportsmanship is that it incites a love of the game for all who witness it.”

Teams qualified for the WMC by playing in one of the nearly 90 SSUSA qualifiers and regional championships held throughout the country during the season.

The tournament is a joint venture, administered by SSUSA, with LVSSA



**No Dice/Bay Photo Lab (CA), the 2018 Steve Simmons Memorial Team Sportsmanship Award Winner.**

supplying many of the field directors and helping secure and maintain the 10 softball facilities and 36 fields used

in the tournament throughout North Las Vegas, Henderson and Clark County.

## Five 85-Year Old Teams Set to Play at the WMC

The elder statesmen of the game of Senior Softball will be on full display at the 2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships, as five 85-year old teams will be in action.

This will be the fifth year that SSUSA will host an 85-age division.

The Men's 85 Division in 2018 will feature the Arizona Prospectors 85, Center For Sight (FL), Legends 85's/ProHealth (MN), Scrap Iron Hawaiians (CO), and Southwest Stars 85's (TX).

Center For Sight, the reigning champion, will look to defend its title, as the team won the four-team Men's 85

Division in the WMC last year.

Entering bracket play as the top seed, Center For Sight dropped its opening game against Jimmy's Legends 85's (MN), 11-9.

The team then ran off four straight wins to capture the title, defeating AZ Prospectors (19-16) and Southwest Stars (19-6), before double-dipping Jimmy's Legends, 15-13 and 19-6, in the championship and “if” game, respectively.

Center for Sight previously won the division in 2014.

Jimmy's Legends won the division in back-to-back seasons, 2015 and 2016.

## International Co-Ed Division Debuts at WMC

For the first time in SSUSA history, the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships will host an international co-ed division.

The inaugural division will be played during the third session, Sept. 28-30, with a team from Germany, the Bavarian Royals, scheduled to compete.

Several members of the Bavarian Royals competed against US senior teams during the 2017 SSUSA Bavarian Championships in Munich.

Ron Marier, manager of the Royals, began organizing the team after the 2017 tournament and helped establish the Co-Ed rules for the first

Co-Ed division to compete in the World Masters Championships.

Along with the German team, there will be three co-ed teams from Las Vegas competing as well.

A co-ed team shall have a minimum of four women on the field at a time.

International male players must be 40 years of age, while international female players must be 21 years of age.

All men and women on American and Canadian co-ed teams competing in the division must be 40 years of age.

[CLICK HERE](https://www.bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball) for complete rules.



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# 2018 WMC: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## Whacko's Makes Fourth WMC Appearance

Formed in 2015 by Pat Kuehn, Whacko's, an all deaf team, will be making its fourth straight appearance in the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships in 2018.

"I played with Minnesota Lumberjack 50's my first two years (2013 and 2014)," said Kuehn. "I always respected the Lumberjacks team because they treated me damn well. However, I often became lonesome during practice and games, and other team social functions. I talked with SSUSA Chief Executive Officer, Terry Hennessy, if I could establish deaf team from around the nation, which I found only 10 deaf players."

Due to the team being made up of deaf players from across the United States, the regional restrictions of bordering states that are in place have been voided to help aid the team in creating a roster.

The team was given a trial run as an exhibition team in the 2015 WMC in the Men's

50 AA Division, before moving up to the Men's 50 AAA Division for the 2016 WMC. The team posted a 4-3 record in 2016, going 1-1 in seeding play, and 3-2 in bracket play.

In 2017, the team went 2-3, going 1-1 in seeding play, before going 1-2 in bracket play.

Vance Rewolinski, coach of the Whacko's, has recruited several players through the National Softball Association of the Deaf (NSAD) National Deaf Softball Tournament.

Communication, which can be taken for granted on a mainstream full hearing team, is vital in any team sport.

"With the Whacko's team, there is no barrier as we all communicate in ASL (American Sign Language) with our hands and facial expressions," said Saul Gevarter, the current team manager of Whacko's. "It is our first language. Win or lose, we all enjoy getting together to play, and at the same time, share stories from the old days."



Whacko's team photo from the 2017 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships

Similar to Kuehn, Gevarter was no stranger to mainstream SSUSA teams, playing with Nor Cal Stars, a Men's 40 team, from 2009 – 2013. He returned to the diamond in 2017 with Whacko's. "I would have continued with Nor Cal Stars if it wasn't for my Brain Cancer issue," said Gevarter. "I lost partial mobility in my left hand. Communication was an issue for me, but I'm fortunate that my teammates helped me out. I had a successful run with Nor Cal Stars."

Whacko's plays just one tournament a year, the WMC, but Kuehn wishes they could play more. "I am so grateful," said Kuehn. "It is not easy to get more sponsors for our team. We always pay our own pockets. We always respect WMC, committees, umpires, players, and fans. I picked Coach Vance Rewolinski and Manager Saul Gevarter and Sponsor Matt Cotton. They are doing a good job for taking care of us. Go Whacko's!!!!"

## WMC Calendar of Events Continued

Continued From Page 20

**Thursday, Sept. 20:**

**8 am at all fields:** The Games Begin

Seeding games for the World Championships begin at all fields. Players check-in before the first game and receive wristbands. Bracket games will be played in some divisions. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played.

**12:30 pm at Big League**

**Dreams:** Opening Ceremo-

nies

**Friday, Sept. 21:**

**8 am at all fields:** Games Continue

**Saturday, Sept. 22:**

**8 am at all fields:** Games Continue

Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day.

**Sunday, Sept. 23:**

**8 am at all fields:** Awards Presented

Today is the culmination of play for the Men's 55 and 60

Divisions. Awards will be presented on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive rings.

**Sunday, Sept. 23:**

**5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager's Registration

Managers for the Men's 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85 Divisions receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5 and 7 pm at the Headquarters

Hotel: Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at the registration and meeting displaying new softball gear.

**7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager's Meeting Managers for the Men's 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85 Divisions meet at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Managers will meet the directors

Continued On Next Page

# 2018 WMC: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## WMC Calendar of Events Continued

**Continued From Previous Page** of fields, review changes in schedules, hear details of awards, special events of the tournament and will be eligible to win prizes during drawings.

### **Monday, Sept. 24:**

**8 am at all fields:** The Games Begin  
Seeding games for the World Championships begin at all fields. Players check-in before the first game and receive wristbands. Bracket games will be played in some divisions. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played in Men's 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85 Divisions.

**Noon at Big League Dreams:** Opening Ceremonies National Anthem with Nellis Air Force Base Color Guard presenting the colors.

### **Tuesday, Sept. 25 -**

### **Wednesday, Sept. 26:**

**8 am at all fields:** Games Continue  
Seeding (Tuesday) and Bracket (Wednesday) games played at all fields throughout the day.

### **Thursday, Sept. 27:**

**8 am at all fields:** Games Conclude & Awards Presented Today is the culmination of



**Former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman addresses the crowd during Opening Ceremonies of the 2017 World Masters.**

play for the 65, 70, 75, 80 and 85 Men's Divisions. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive rings.

### **Thursday, Sept. 27**

**5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager's Registration  
Managers for the Men's 40 Division & all Women's Divisions register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5 pm and 7 pm at the Headquarters Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at the Registration and Meeting

displaying new softball gear.  
**7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager's Meeting  
Managers for the Men's 40 Division and all Women's 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.

### **Friday, Sept. 28**

**8 am at all fields:** The Games Begin  
Games begin at all fields. Players register before the

first game, receive wristbands. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played in Men's 40 Division and all Women's Divisions. Inaugural International Co-Ed Division begins play.

**Noon at Big League Dreams:** Opening Ceremonies National Anthem with Nellis Air Force Base Color Guard presenting the colors.

### **Saturday, Sept. 29**

**8 am at all fields:** Games Continue

Seeding games played at all fields throughout the day.

### **Sunday, Sept. 30**

**8 am at all fields:** Games Conclude & Awards Presented Today is the culmination of play for the 40 Men's Division and all Women's Divisions. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive rings.

### **Wednesday, Oct. 3**

**5 - 7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager's Registration  
Managers for the Men's 50 Division register and receive their programs and schedules anytime between 5pm and 7

**Continued on Next Page**



Seven teams from Guam were awarded the Steve Simmons Memorial Team Sportsmanship Award during the Opening Ceremonies at the 2017 World Masters.



# 2018 WMC: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

## WMC Calendar of Events Continued

**Continued From Previous Page**  
pm at the Headquarters Hotel: Boulder Station Casino and Hotel. Several vendors will be at the Registration and Meeting displaying new softball gear and products.  
**7 pm at the Boulder Station Casino and Hotel (Railhead Room):** Manager's Meeting Managers for the Men's 50 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.

### Thursday, Oct. 4

**8 am at all fields:** The Games Begin  
Seeding games for the World Championships begin at all fields. Players check-in before the first game and receive wristbands. Bracket games will be played in some divisions. U.S. National Games are scheduled to be played in the Men's 50 Division.

**Noon at Big League Dreams:** Opening Ceremonies

### Friday, Oct. 5:

**8 am at all fields:** Games

Continue

Elimination games played at all fields throughout the day.

### Saturday, Oct. 6:

**8 am at all fields:** Games Continue

### Sunday, Oct. 7:

**8 am at all fields:** Games Conclude & Awards Presented  
Today is the culmination of play for the Men's 50 Division. Awards will be presented in ceremonies on the field after each of the Championship Games. Winners receive Rings.



Nellis Air Force Base Color Guard

## "It Ain't Over 'til It's Over" — Yogi Berra

When a guy tells me it doesn't really matter who wins or loses, I look sideways under my eyelids like a grazing moose getting sneaked up on. I suspect that under his T-shirt lurks Attila the Hun tattooed over his ventricles.

I have a test: About the third inning I'll tell him that I have the score one run better for my team than I know it really is. If I persist on that tac his forehead vein will crawl down from under his cap and start playing African drum rhythms.

Not sure when it became diplomatically correct to pretend like you don't care who wins as long as we are healthy and having fun.

Most of us grew up when Vince Lombardi was screaming a curse on your mother if you gave an inch or left the field still breathing.

But whenever and wher-

## CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

ever the gentle, smiling, phrase is uttered, bull tails rise in a great collective salute and a symphony of ploppings is heard throughout the cosmos.

In 2001 when I was a "young guy" in senior ball, that is to say if your grandkids aren't in high school yet, or your wife's toes aren't side-bent from a lifetime of high heels — you qualify as a young guy; I was in a sandlot league game at a grade school field that gophers had sieged and conquered, so of course none of us were supposed to care about who won or lost.

Among the players that day was a new guy so out of shape that he played in a Hawaiian shirt, couldn't hit the ball past the pitcher.

By the end of the game the outfield played him on the infield like they going to trap a rabbit in a dragnet.

The way I figure it, God couldn't resist reaching down and flicking the ball off his bat, then bouncing it off a gopher hole through the only possible gap to roll teasingly into right field.

Delighted, the man took off running and was out of breath within 50 feet. The ball kept on going and his teammates cheered him on as the score was tied in the bottom of the last inning, two outs.

By second base great pools of sweat soiled the Hawaiian shirt and the poor man's tongue was a bobbing piece of dead meat that two hours previously had been happily telling the dude's wife how he was going out to get healthy and have fun.

Nobody on his team was

going to let him slack off, so as he approached third the cheers had turned to red-faced screams and an occasional threat.

Ten feet past third the new guy just dropped to the earth in a Gooney-bird landing.

Bob Smith, his manager, rushed out and yelled at everyone to back off and allow him some air.

He motioned for me to help pick him up and I joined Bob on the other side and we dragged the man along what suspiciously looked to me like the third base path to home.

The ball had come in by now and the infielder who held it was still in obedience to Bob's drill sergeant glower.

The newbie was probably listening for the ambulance siren when he heard Bob's gentle, caring, voice say, "Now just step on home plate there, atta' boy."

# Northeast All-Tourney Teams Announced

The 2018 Northeast Championships was held in Syracuse, NY for a seventh straight year.

52 teams participated in the tournament, playing at Hopkins Road Park and Santaro Park Fields, July 6 – 11.

13 teams went on to clinch their spot in the Tournament of Champions (TOC) in February in Florida.

To read the recaps that appeared in the Newsletter, please click [HERE](#) (Session 1) and [HERE](#) (Session 2).

## Men's 40 Major

MVP (PA) – Robert Marcks, Ryan Hogan, Brian Stump

## Men's 50/55 Platinum

Trinity Rizzo's 50 (NY) – Chris Parsons, Craig Chamberlain, Jeff Drain, Steve Horton, Raymond Tramonto. / Domino's/Bob Johnson 55 (NY) – Dave Lape, Jim

Caterbone, Ronald Hargrove, Pete Madafferri.

## Men's 50 AAA

Big Bottom Brewery/Evolve Salon (PA) – Dana Howard, Robert Szajnik, Bryan Kratzer, Tom Gess, Brad Feik. / Finance of America (NJ) – Scott Mugele, Daniel Righetti, Rodney Monteleone, Nelson Santiago.

## Men's 55 Major

Buell Fuel (NY) – Bob Chajkowski, Bill Rowell, Stephen Nedlik, Victor Quinton, Frank Tibke. / TNT Sports Club (PA) – Mark McGahen, Rick Barlow, Roger Kummerer, David Ormanoski.

## Men's 55 AAA

Lynch Construction (PA) – Richard Kaminski, Clair



Kibler, Edward Leyshon, Michael Miller, Peter Lynch.

## Men's 60 AAA

Cape Cod Mariners (MA) – Joe Guiducci, Dave Pina, Ron Kenyon, Ron Scarborough.

## Men's 65 AAA

Syracuse Cyclones (NY) – Robert Darnell, Joseph Versace, Chris Bell, Larry Clock. / Spring-Ford AA 65 (PA) – John Stambaugh, John

Martello, Brad Hanson.

## Men's 70 Major

CC Medical Services (NY) – George Bundt, Dave Clark, Joe Gibney, Butch Jensen, Steve Beccalori.

## Men's 70 AAA

Bostonian 70s (MA) – Mike Perroncino, Edward Gray, Dave Joseph, Ray LePage, Ted Wess.

## Men's 75 AAA

Monkey Joe's Big Nut Co. 75 (NJ) – Ray Dye, Frank Gordon, Gerald Pickett, Herminio Cruz, Frank Taverno. / Bailey Talent Cavaliers 75 (VA) – Paul Math, Leroy Allen, Danny Wandling, Robert Taylor.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)

# Midwest All-Tourney Teams Announced

The 2018 Midwest Championships was at Rogers Regional Sports Park for a third straight year, with 45 teams competing July 10 – 15.

Twelve teams punched their ticket to the Tournament of Champions (TOC) in

Florida this February.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full recap that appeared in the Newsletter.

## Men's 50 Major

KC Classics (MO) – Sid Adamson, Rick Miller, Tim Hubert, Dave VanBecelaere.

## Men's 50 AAA

Chitown Assault/Titan/T2Auto/DynaMac (IL) – Ronald Trodler, Larry Mueller, Jeff Kerman, Rick Reed, Dave Amaro.

## Men's 55 Major

KC Classics (MO) – David Haggart, Kenny Houston, Ron Lipps, Craig Childress, Brent Pate.

## Men's 60 Major

Pope Transport (WI) – Steven Thelen, Lance Riddell, Michael Baehman.

## Men's 60 AAA

Carriage Homes (AR) – Jimmy Pennington, Mike Jacobs, Steve Ballard, Randy Harris, Alan Moffitt.

## Men's 60 AA

R&K Drywall (OK) – Mike Killgore, George Basore, Robert McCord, Joe Broussard.

## Men's 65 Major

Handeland Flooring (WI) – Brad Mueller, Lance Riddell, Paul Cox, Terry Hovseth, Mike Baehman. / KC Kids (KS) – Dave Cook, Randy Schuler, Dan Potter.

## Men's 65 AA

Robson Ranch Texans – Da-

vid McKie, Jim Reese, John Blecher, Terence Scholze, John Thompson. / R&D Leverage (MO) – Bill Connell, Phillip Jacobs, Bruce Connell, Phillip Yelton.

## Men's 70 Major

Boyd Metals (AR) – Randy Fithian, Emerson Brubaker, Dick Anish.

## Men's 70 AAA

Midwest Express (IA) – Duane Carolus, Leo Hensley, Paul Jackson, Ed Tworek.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)





# Northwest All-Tourney Teams Announced

The 2018 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships was held at Wallace Marine Park Softball Complex in Salem, OR for a third straight year, with 43 teams in action, July 10 – 15.

14 teams reserved their spots in the Original Tournament of Champions (TOC) in Florida this February.

To read the full recap that appeared in the Newsletter, please [CLICK HERE](#).

## Men's 50 AAA

Westcoast Athletics (WA) – David Jones, Dan Clouse, Jimmy Parks, Chris Squires, Dominic Dunn. / Vancouver Connection (WA) – Lee Phares, Ramiro Leos, Drew Muntzel.

## Men's 55 Major



Doerflinger (WA) – Kevin Juma, Daren De Boer, Jim Perry, Scott Hartsoch, John Feters.

## Men's 55 AAA

Rogues (OR) – Jeff Edwards, Carl Wilson, Mike Winn, Rick Baker.

## Men's 60 Major

Goodman Racing (WA) – Mickey Fowler, Rick Parker,

Marc Stock, Steve Humphries, Kevin Davis. / Scrap Iron High Octane (CO) – James Gowdy, Robert Knowles, Rick Stillwell.

## Men's 60 Silver

Senior Bend Elks (OR) – Raymond O'Rear, Ronald Landers, Michael Koepf, Mark Fry.

## Men's 65 Major

Enviro-Vac Marauder (BC, C) – Donald Freund, Rick Parker, Ralph Tipton, Peter Sheen, James Groh.

## Men's 65 AAA

ARO Glass Clubbers (WA) – Mike Ryan, Wayne Ross, Bob Nesbitt, Steve Bailey, John Delia. / Scrap Iron 5280 (CO) – Wayne Bradley, Curt Dicke, Randy Huls, Hal Meyer. / Stagecoach Saloon (OR) – Dennis York, Herb Everett, Oakley Garnett.

## Men's 70/75 Platinum

Codgers/BCT 70 (ID) – Mike Ford, Larry Hoffman, Ken Rhodes, Wayne Schmidkofer, Dean Wickizer. / General Equipment 75 (OR) – Mike Alley, Clauis Nickleberry, Jay Brack, Marv Rueck.

## Men's 70/80 Gold

Suburban Auto Group 70 (OR) – Ron Teninty, Joseph Savage, Wendell Neumeyer, Leslie Gipe, Ralph Davis. / Fairway Ford 80 (CA) – Anthony Iavarone, Dave Duarte, Jim Douglas, RJ Jerrels.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)

# ISA All-Tourney Teams Announced

Fifty teams competed in the 2018 ISA Senior World Series in Columbus, IN, July 27-29.

Nine teams earned a berth to the 2018 TOC.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full recap that appeared in the Newsletter.

## Men's 50 Major

Dudley Lightning (MO) – Mike Moore, Tomo Tojo, Troy Summerfield, Mike Garner, Jeff Henning. / Gem City Softball (OH) – Andy Simpson, Steve Martin, Tab Lewis. / Bad Boyz (IN) – Gary Gatchell, Steve Roeder.

## Men's 50 AAA

50 Degrees (MO) – Ronald Dumas, Joe Jones, Steve Cart-

wright, James Davis, James Johnson. / Resolve (TN) – Dave Munroe, Brad McKenzie, Terry Tatum. / Team Illinois – Mark McMahon, Dave Cowan.

## Men's 55 Major

Doug and Dons Auto Care (MI) – Dale Mayo, Tod Moorhead, Kirby Herschberger, Bruce Streelman, Ed Lehnertz. / NTG/TMS Michigan – Daniel Wolfram, Rick Berridge, Joseph Gould. / Derby City (KY) – Keith Young, Anthony Ferrell.

## Men's 60 Major

Windy City Softball (IL) – James Phad, Tom Cahill, Matt Thompson, Dave Koelper, Bob Tortorici. / Motown Stars

Continued On Page 30

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# ADIDAS TEAM SPECIAL

## SUNCOAST TEAM

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### DIAMOND SPORTS FOOTWEAR

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#### Rockadia

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MSRP: \$60



#### Speed Trainer 3 SL

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MSRP: \$70



#### ICON Trainer

BY3300 | BY3301

MSRP: \$75



#### Vigor Bounce

BW0399 | BB8380

MSRP: \$70



#### Vigor Bounce

BW0401

MSRP: \$70



#### Speed Trainer SMU

B41489

MSRP: \$70





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# ISA All-Tourney Teams Continued

Continued From Page 28

(MI) – McKensley Crumpton, John Van Wagner, Ken Stuemke. / Louisville OG's (KY) – Henry Wheeler, Tim Logsdon.

## Men's 60 AAA

Chicago Panthers (IL) – Gary Collins, Elmer Piper, Kent Karr, Gary Poliska, Tim Cannon. / Cincinnati 60s (OH) – Roberto Rodriguez, Mike Viox, Jeff Seibert.

## Men's 65 Major

Handeland Flooring (WI) – Terry Hovs-eth, Bert Hempler, Carl Budnik, Kenny Gilpin, Ron Bruce. / Hendricks Sports Management (TX) – Thomas Brown, Joe Reed, Julian Tamez.

## Men's 65 AAA

MP Components/Bomb Squad (MI) – Roger White, Dennis Ladd, David



Bartlett, Richard Hildebrand, Rob Reed.

## Men's 65 AA

Indy Fog (IN) – George Meek, Rick

Hedge, Lynn Montgomery, Tim Mc-Nealy, Rick Caswell. / Blue Chips (IL) – Rob Jesk, Don Griffin, Bruce Van Aukun.

## Men's 70 AAA

Avengers (MO) – Gary Bowers, Richard Long, Jim Jenkins, Tim Bokaz, John DeArmond. / Chicago Strikers (IL) – Larry Hall, Jack Fitzer, Mike McLennand. / Columbus Silver Sticks (IN) – Bob Pedigo, Ray Dye.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please email them to [anthony@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:anthony@seniorsoftball.com)

## Qualified TOC Teams

With just one Tournament of Champions qualifier remaining in the 2018 season, more than 230 teams have earned their golden ticket to the 2019 Original Tournament of Champions by winning one of the 20 TOC qualifiers that have been played.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the list of teams that have qualified so far this season.

Be sure to contact the SSUSA office if your team is not listed.

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<b>JULY 1-31</b>	Artown
<b>JULY/AUG</b>	Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival
<b>JULY</b>	Barracuda Championship – <i>PGA TOUR Golf Tournament</i>
<b>AUG 6-11</b>	Hot August Nights
<b>AUG 25-SEPT 2</b>	Burning Man
<b>AUG 28-SEPT 2</b>	Best In The West Nugget Rib Cook-Off
<b>SEPT 6-8</b>	The Great Reno Balloon Race
<b>SEPT 11-15</b>	National Championship Air Races
<b>SEPT 25-29</b>	Street Vibrations Fall Rally
<b>OCT 12-13</b>	The Eldorado Great Italian Festival

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# Breaking Up Double Play Not Praise Worthy

Every once in a while at a SSUSA tournament, a player will yell to a teammate who just slid into a fielder at second base: "Way to break up the double play."

That's not proper praise.

Instead, it's encouraging a dangerous and prohibited act. And I don't mean the act of sliding.

Clean slides are welcome. But a runner intentionally colliding with a defender is not. And it doesn't matter whether the runner comes in to a base sliding, standing or in some posture in-between.

Runners must do all they can to avoid collisions with defenders. That can't be stressed enough. Senior Softball-USA has emphasized its anti-collision rules, 8.6 and 8.7(4), for many years. Those rules prohibit actions by base runners that put defensive players at physical risk.

Yet some teams and players still don't get it.

This summer, a SSUSA umpire watched a 50 AAA runner make a hard slide into and past second base. There was no contact with a defender but because of the slide's intensity, the umpire made a mental note to watch that runner closely.

The next time on base, the runner again slid hard into second. This time he elevated both feet and smacked the defender fielding the throw. The umpire called the runner out. The runner and his teammates objected. Some thought, incorrectly, that sliding made contact legal.

The umpire was enforcing Rule 8.6, part of which states: "A runner must make

## Umpire's Corner By Donna McGuire

every effort to avoid colliding with opposing players while running the bases or sliding or diving." The rule also states: "If in the umpire's judgment the runner fails to avoid a collision with a defensive player involved in the play, the ball will be declared dead and the runner called out."

The avoiding-collisions onus falls on runners because they almost always can see the play unfolding in front of them. Defenders often are looking at the ball.

Sure, defenders also have a responsibility. If not involved in a play, a defender should move away from a base or the baseline, to give the runner room. And if a runner reaches a base first, a defender running toward that base should swerve to avoid colliding.

Usually, though, a collision avoidance warning alarm should sound in the runner's mind, not the fielder's.

Consider these situations:

1. As a batter-runner heads to first, a wild throw pulls the first baseman into foul territory. Should the batter-runner, who had been headed to the orange portion of the base, run instead to the white portion?

2. A fielder blocks third base while waiting on a ball coming from the outfield. The runner stops a step short of the base to avoid leveling the fielder with the ball still 20 to 25 feet away. Should the still-stationary runner be called safe when tagged?

3. As a runner sprints

toward the scoring line, a wild throw pulls the catcher into the runner's path. Can the runner slide to avoid hitting the catcher and still be safe?

The answers: Yes. Yes. Yes.

In situation 1, the fielder still must touch the white portion of the base to record the out. The runner, therefore, should adjust to the white portion to avoid a possible collision.

Situation 2 involves obstruction. A fielder cannot block a base unless he possesses the ball or is about to receive it. The runner did the right thing by braking. He is safe.

Situation 3 outlines the only reason a runner legally can slide into the scoring line or scoring plate: to avoid colliding with a fielder blocking his path.

In each situation, a defender's actions set up a possible collision. The runner has the best view of the situation and should react, if there is time.

When there isn't time, collisions become unavoidable "train wrecks."

One train wreck happened in July at the Midwest Cham-

pionships in Rogers, Ark. The first baseman moved three or four steps to his right to field a slow grounder then sprinted toward the base in what was going to be a very close play. He stepped on the white base – but continued over the orange base with the runner only a step away. The collision sent both players sprawling and knocked out the first baseman, who had to be taken by ambulance to a hospital.

That runner had no time to change direction. It's an example of why umpires must judge each collision independently.

As far as the "Way to break up the double play" example at the top of this column, please remember that the old-school, second-base collision once considered part of the game in Major League Baseball has NO part in SSUSA play. The umpire can award a double play if, in his judgment, the collision negated one.

Sliding into a defender to break up a double play is prohibited.

*Donna McGuire is SSUSA's Central Region Umpire-in-Chief and Chair of the National Rules Committee.*

## JOIN THE SSUSA LEAGUE FAMILY!

SSUSA provides promotion of leagues on its website ([www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com)), which has provided players a way to identify local leagues in their area. It has been a very successful partnership.

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A man, Bully Kramer, is standing on the right side of the image, smiling. He is wearing a white baseball jersey with blue and black horizontal stripes, dark blue pants with a light blue stripe down the side, a blue and white cap, and sunglasses. He is holding a baseball bat in his left hand. The background is a dark blue field with a large, stylized, light blue 'E' logo in the upper center. To the left of the man, there are several other stylized logos: a large 'E' at the top, a 'D' below it, and a 'T' below that. At the bottom left, there is a large 'Q' logo. The overall theme is baseball-related, specifically senior softball.

Contact: Carlos Vega  
714-639-9940 xt. 222

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# US Citizens Hold \$8.9 Trillion in Mortgage Debt

**By Jack Sirard**

Apple Inc. received a lot of attention in the financial press when its market capitalization exceeded \$1 trillion. That marked the first time an American publicly traded company hit the magical trillion-dollar marker.

And while a handful of others, most notably Amazon and Google, are knocking on the trillion-dollar door and will no doubt earn their fair share of headlines, another financial marker is now well above \$1 trillion and no one seems to notice.

The money in question is the reported \$8.9 trillion of mortgage debt held by U.S. citizens, according to a report earlier this year from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

No matter how you slice it, that's a tremendous amount of household debt and to no one's surprise, it's on the rise, growing by nearly \$140 billion in the fourth quarter of last year.

It seems to me that there are essentially two schools of thought on paying off your mortgage early, rather than to let the bill paying run its course.

On one hand, if you don't pay up early, you should have more money available to invest and thus build a larger retirement nest egg. And on the other side of the coin, the goal is to pay the mortgage off as quickly as possible so that in retirement, your home is secure and debt free.

I certainly like the latter strategy, particularly for those of Senior Softball age, those in their 50s and 60s. There's

nothing quite like walking out of work the last day on the job, with your 401(k) or similar account, your pension and knowing that you are essentially debt free.

That's the strategy preferred by Shark Tank personality Kevin O'Leary who recently told CNBC that "if you want to find financial freedom, you need to pay off all debt," including your mortgage. His plan for investors is an aggressive one in having all debt decks cleared by age 45, which I think would be a challenge for most of us.

In fact, a study this year in the American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings reported that more than 70 percent of Americans between the ages of 56 and 61 were in debt, not a good sign for their future.

So what's the best strategy to getting your mortgage paid off early enough to enjoy retirement?

According to the experts at Bankrate.com there are four easy ways to pay down your mortgage faster than what the bank has planned:

1. Refinance with a shorter-term mortgage. Simply go to your lender and see what the going rates are for a 10-, 15- or 20-year mortgage. You may be surprised to see how financially efficient this can be. Shorter term mortgages usually have lower rates than 30-year loans.

## Heard in the Dugout

"Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly, I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it." - Theodore Roosevelt.

2. Pay a little more each month. This is a strategy that I have personally found to be financially beneficial. What I have done is to round up your payment to the next \$100 mark or so. For instance, if your payment is \$929 a month, pay \$1,000 each month and tell your lender to put that extra \$71 toward your principal.

3. Make an extra mortgage payment each year. So instead of 12 payments, make a 13th. One way to do this is to save 1/12 of a payment every month, and then make an extra payment after every 12 months.

4. Throw all found money at the mortgage. If you get a bonus or a tax refund,

put some or all of that new-found money toward paying off your mortgage.


No matter what you decided to do, it's best to let your lender know what you're trying to accomplish. They may even have another idea or two that will pay off for you.

By paying off your mortgage early, you will gain immense peace of mind – and be able to focus much better on simply playing ball and enjoying life.

*Jack Sirard is a retired nationally syndicated financial columnist and Senior Editor for Senior Softball-USA.*

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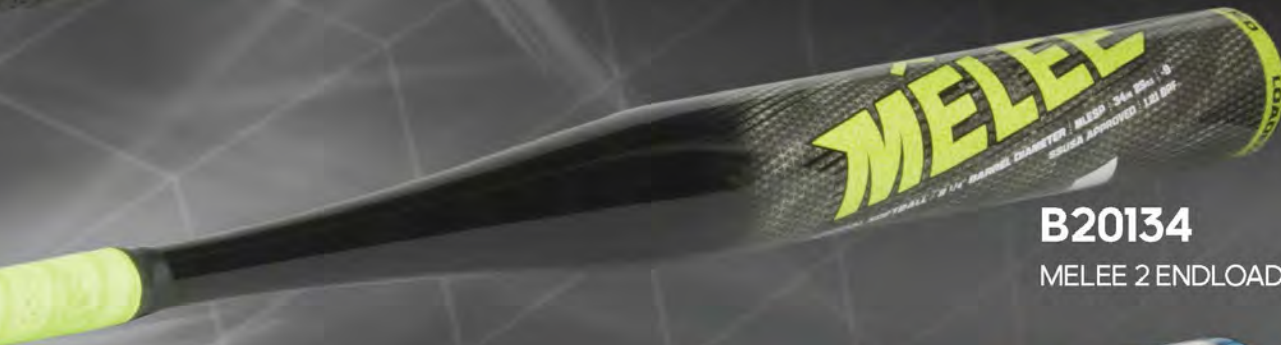
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# SSUSA Tour Heads to French and Italian Riviera

## Softball News Report

The 2019 Senior Softball USA International Tour heads to the French and Italian Riviera, with tournaments in Nice, France, and Genoa, Italy next May.

First made famous as a playground for the aristocracy in the 1900s by Queen Victoria, King Edward and a host of other royals, the French and Italian Riviera continue to charm visitors with its beautiful landscapes, charming fishing villages and relaxed way of life.

The beauty of the Riviera has drawn renown artists, actors and writers, as well, including Picasso, Somerset Maugham, Percy Bysshe Shelley, the Rothschilds, Princess Grace and, more re-

cently, Elton John and Brigitte Bardot.

Now, Senior Softball USA is offering senior softball players and their families the chance to experience this very special strip of coast spanning France and Italy filled not only with beauty, but rich history – including Christopher Columbus worked a farm in the area while he chronicled his voyages for posterity.

“The trip includes sight-seeing, shopping, exploring – and, of course, playing ball,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer. “We are working with Genoa softball officials on a two-day tournament in that scenic town, as well as another tournament in Nice.”

The tour was originally



French Riviera

scheduled for Portugal and France, but it was not possible to arrange a flight for the group between Lisbon and Nice.

“For the past several weeks we have been negotiating with TAP Air Portugal, which provides the only direct air service between Portugal and Nice,” said Ross McCul-

ligan, SSUSA international director. “But they were not able to accommodate our large group.”

The tour was then expanded to both the French and Italian Riviera on the same dates: May 2-14, 2019.

More detailed information will be available soon on [www.seniorsoftball.com](http://www.seniorsoftball.com).

# Diet and Exercise Keys to Healthy Lifestyle

CAN-Sirs would like to thank all the supporters and teams that participated in the Senior Softball /CAN-Sirs Northern California Senior Softball tournament.

It is our privilege to partner with SSUSA, and we hope to continue and improve on future events.

My thought today is something I’ve touched on in the past, but it bears repeating:

Enjoy a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise.

CAN-Sirs has always promoted this lifestyle. Recently I have noticed that this advice is everywhere.

Advice on preventing cancer, heart attacks, avoiding stroke, diabetes and many other serious debilitating or deadly diseases always includes maintaining a healthy lifestyle, diet and exercise.



## CAN-SIRS CORNER

By Pete Davignon

When drug companies advertise their products, they list all the medicines and supplements you should avoid when taking the drug. Also, they recommend not using it if you have a certain sickness or maladies.

The interesting part of all their advertising and promotion is that it always carries a tagline that says if used along with a healthy lifestyle, diet and exercise.

How much can a supplement or vitamin do if it’s not part of a healthy diet and exercise?

We encourage you to keep exercise and diet a part of your life both during and off season. There are excellent conditioning exercises and helpful hints on our website, [can-sirs.org](http://can-sirs.org).

CAN-Sirs is a nonprofit corporation. Our mission is to make ourselves available to tell our stories of success in surviving cancer. We concentrate our efforts on senior softball players and their families to promote awareness and prevention of cancer, support organizations, and new research. We do this mainly at senior softball events.

We also have had our own benefit tournament in Elk Grove, Calif. We have

participation from many local organizations and are in the process of creating a community cancer event.

Another ongoing fundraiser that we held was providing softballs to tournaments and teams. All profits went to supporting CAN-Sirs mission.

We always welcome your continuing support. Send your contribution to: CAN-Sirs 2485 Notre Dame Blvd #370-180 Chico CA 95928 Phone (530)-680-1614 Email: [can-sirs@att.net](mailto:can-sirs@att.net)

We may finally be winning the battle to turn what once was a deadly diagnosis into a disease that can be controlled and cured. Immunotherapies and gene-targeted drugs are changing the course of some cancers.



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# *Senior Softball - USA International Tours presents: The French and Italian Riviera May 2 - 14, 2019*



**J**oin Senior Softball-USA's majestic *French and Italian Riviera Tour*. Our tour will include stops in the historic towns of Genoa, San Remo, Nice, Monte Carlo and Cannes. Experience the rich history and breathtaking landscapes these southern Europe territories offer, **AND** play softball!

We will spend our first six nights in **Genoa**. While there, we will relax along the beautiful coastline, explore the city's historic sights, and cruise along the *Italian Riviera*. In addition, our USA teams will compete against Italian teams during a two-day tournament, May 4 - 5.

From there we will travel west, to spend the next six nights in **Nice**. While in France, we will travel the southern coastline for day tours through Monte Carlo, St. Tropez, and Cannes, visiting the world-famous Grasse perfume factory. Our USA teams will compete in a one-day tournament against French teams on May 11.

- A full tour itinerary will be released shortly.



- For more information on the tour, please contact Ross McCulligan at [Ross@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:Ross@seniorsoftball.com) or call (916) 326-5303.





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