



WMC Continues to Dazzle as Largest Senior Softball Tournament

Sin City a Magnet for Senior Softball Teams

By Anthony Ramos

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – The 2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships (WMC) set a record of 625 teams, eclipsing last year's previous mark of 612 teams. LVSSA and SSUSA joined forces to create the World Masters

Please See Page 20

■ PAGE 25: WMC All-Tourney Teams ■ PAGE 29: 2018 Triple Grand Slam Winners ■ PAGE 31: 2018 U.S. National Champ Winners

Major Plus Allowed Two Extra Out-Of-Region Players / 40s Division Given Courtesy Foul

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS -- The Senior Softball USA Rules Committee gave the 40 Masters division a courtesy foul, made the 1-1 count permanent for the men's 50, 55 and 60 divisions and kept the 0-0 count for men's 65 and older divisions and added two out-of-region players for Major-plus teams.

Those were among the 37 issues discussed at the annual Rules Committee hearing here at the annual SSUSA/ISA Convention Nov. 27-30.

The Rules Meetings are the centerpiece of

Please See Convention on Page 4



TRENDS

International Co-Ed Division Looks Like a Winner in First Tourney **PAGE 21**

The inaugural International Co-Ed Division at the 2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships featured teams from Germany and Panama, as well as the United States.



**PROUD
TO BE WITH
SSUSA!**



BSN SPORTS

BSNSPORTS.com/SENIORSOFTBALL

FRANK SOTTILE

SALES PRO

800-327-0074 ext.127 • *fsottile@bsnsports.com*

**BSN SPORTS IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL
SUPPLIER OF SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA!**

Senior Softball News

9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 326-5303 OFFICE
(916) 326-5304 FAX
www.seniorsoftball.com

Publisher
W.E. Ruth

Editor
Terry Hennessy

Managing Editor
Anthony Ramos

Contributing Writers
Pete Davignon, Dave Dowell, Jack
Eberhard, Art Eversole, Carl Gus-
tafson, Stephanie Hopkins, Ross
McCulligan, George Moreno, Tiffany
Peck, Stan Reents, Jack Sirard

Internet Director
Scott Flodin

Art Director
Sue Ballenger

Marketing Manager
Fran Dowell

Nothing in this publication shall be deemed to constitute in any fashion whatsoever an endorsement by Senior Softball USA, LLC. (SSUSA), of any information in this publication. SSUSA, LLC., disclaims any and all liability with respect to any use of, or reliance on, such information. No information in this publication shall be construed in any manner whatsoever as a recommendation of any industry standard, or as a recommendation of any kind to be adopted by, or binding on, any person or entity. Nor shall information contained in this publication be deemed to constitute in any fashion whatsoever an endorsement by SSUSA, LLC., of any product or service advertised herein. The material set forth in this publication is provided on an informational basis only. SSUSA, Inc., is not engaged in the practice of any profession, including but not limited to law, medicine and accounting, and nothing in this publication should be relied upon in lieu of appropriate competent professional advice.

Index

From the Cover:

Convention - New Rules for 2019
Continued on.....Pg. 4

2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships Wrap-Up
Continued.....Pg. 20

Expansion of International Co-Ed Division
Continued on.....Pg. 21

News Index:

Umpire's Corner.....Pg. 5
Get to Know the Commitment Line

SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2018
Class of 2019 Announced.....Pg. 5

Opinions & Letters
Oasis of Senior SoftballPg. 8

Book Review
Nana's in the Outfield.....Pg. 8

Carl's Corner.....Pg. 10

Southeast Expansion.....Pg. 10



National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2018.....Pg. 12

2018 Winter National Championships (2019 Roster Event).....Pg. 15

Fitness Column.....Pg. 18

Hitting Column.....Pg. 19

2018 Winter World Championships Recap (2019 Roster Event).....Pg. 32

Finance Column.....Pg. 38

All-Tourney Teams:

Winter Nationals.....Pg. 16

World Masters.....Pg. 25

Winter Worlds.....Pg. 35

Sponsor Index:

BSN Sports - Official Supplier of SSUSA.....Pg. 2 

Adidas - Official Shoe of SSUSA.....Pg. 28 

Elite Sports USA - Official Uniform of SSUSA.....Pg. 34 

Tournament Bat Sponsors:

 **EASTON** Pg. 11

Bat Sponsor of: Tidewater Classic, Southern California State Championships, SSUSA/CAN-Sirs Northern California State Championships, Midwest Championships, Northern Championships.

 **Pg. 17**
Bat Sponsor of: LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships, Atlantic Coast Championships, Western National Championships, Winter World Championships.

Pgs. 23 / 30
Bat Sponsors of: Spring National Championships, Jim Sherman Memorial Northwest Championships, Southern Championships.

 **Pg. 36**
Bat Sponsor of: Spring World Championships, Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup, Rocky Mountain Championships, Winter National Championships.

Pgs. 39 / 40
Bat Sponsors of: Texas State Championships, Northeast Championships, ISA Senior World Series, Eastern National Championships, Tournament of Champions



TRUMP : OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

BSN SPORTS: OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127

Convention: Roster Size Increased for Older Teams

Continued from Page 1

business conducted during the convention and two sessions are open for public comment.

Delegates also elected four people into the SSUSA International Hall of Fame for 2019 and three others – including SSUSA Executive Director Fran Dowell – were inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame this year (See stories on Pages 5 and 6).

The issues addressed ranged from double-elimination formats for the 75 and 80 divisions, to penalties for using illegal bats, playing at night, eliminating the batter's box, foul tips, and overrunning second and third bases.

Fewer than half passed.

Rules Committee Chair Donna McGuire, the Midwest Umpire-in-Chief, made clear at the beginning of the meeting that the purpose was to improve, not simply change rules.

The Rules Committee is chaired by McGuire and is made up of 13 voting members and six alternates. The Committee meets every year at the annual SSUSA Convention to discuss and vote on rules.

Pitch count was on the top of the agenda, with several competing resolutions introduced.

Some wanted a 1-1 count for all divisions, others wanted no courtesy fouls.

The committee decided to add a courtesy foul to the 40 Masters, who were play-

ing with no courtesy foul, to make all divisions using the 1-1 count consistent. Currently SSUSA uses the 1-1 count for all 40 Masters, men's 50, 55 and 60 divisions and women's 50 division.

There was the annual motion to extend the 1-1 count to all divisions, but the committee voted to retain the full 0-0 count for men's 65 and older divisions and women 55 and older divisions, citing the latest national player survey results that showed older divisions favored the 0-0 count.

Some of the other major changes – and much of the discussion – concerned the Major-Plus division.

A number of Major-Plus players said they did not like the idea of stronger Major-plus teams giving an equalizer at the top division of play. Some said teams from the East should be able to pick up more out-of-region players because there were so many more players in the West. Others

complained that Major-Plus teams were able to pick up too many players for the World Masters Championships.

In the end, the Committee decided to do away with the Major-Plus equalizers (known as the Major-Plus-Plus equalizers), allow all Major-plus teams to pick up two more out-of-region players (for a total of four players), and require Major-Plus teams to play in a qualifying tournament and be restricted to the same roster additions as all other divisions.

"We didn't require Major-Plus teams to play in qualifiers or restrict additions to their rosters because we felt it was unnecessary as they were at the top level of play," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer and a member of the Rules Committee. "It became obvious this year that we needed to impose some restrictions because a few teams picked up almost a whole new team for the

WMC."

Several other items failed, including over-running second and third base, eliminating or changing the batter's box, allowing play to stop if the sun affected the first or third baseman and adding a mandatory equalizer for the next season for all Major-Plus teams winning their divisions at the WMC.

And a number passed, including increasing the numbers of players on a roster for older teams. The rule allows teams with 11 defensive players to have 22 players on the roster and divisions with 12 defensive players can have 24 players on their rosters.

In other action, the committee voted to adopt a set of Co-Ed rules based on existing ISA Co-Ed rules.

For a complete report, please click the link below for the Official Minutes of the 2018 Rules Committee meeting: <https://senior-softball.com/wc/wc2018/SSUSA-Rules-2018.pdf>



Bat representatives from Easton and Wilson present to the SSUSA Rules Committee on new potential testing standards.

Get to Know the Commitment Line

Every once in a while, a catcher relatively new to the senior game will point to the commitment line between home and third base and ask, "What is that?"

Though a simple mark on the field, the commitment line can impact plays in inning-altering ways, from short-circuiting a rally to rattling a defense that thought it had secured a big out. Its application sometimes trips up rookies and veterans alike – anyone from managers to spectators to umpires.

Think you know all commitment line rule nuances? Then ponder this: Is there ever a time that a runner can cross the commitment line headed home and then legally return to third base?

We'll get back to that later.

The commitment line exists for safety reasons. It allows Senior Softball-USA to greatly reduce collisions at home by requiring the runner to stay away from the catcher. A play at home becomes a force out. To score, the runner must touch the ground on or past the scoring line (or scoring plate) before the catcher gains possession of the ball while touching the strike mat.

The commitment line -- drawn perpendicular to the foul line 30 feet from home plate -- is the point of no return. Before touching or crossing it, the runner can reverse direction to third base. But once he touches/crosses, the runner must continue home. If he steps back to the third-base side, he is out and the ball remains live. ("Crossing" means a foot or other

Umpire's Corner By Donna McGuire

body part has touched the line or the ground past the line.)

So if a runner crosses the line before realizing that an outfielder caught a fly ball, it is too late for the runner to return to third to tag up. As soon as he re-crosses the commitment line toward third, the umpire should call him out.

On the other hand, once a runner crosses the commitment line headed home, the defense no longer can tag him or her out.

Savvy runners understand this.

Consider this play witnessed in May: With a runner on third, the batter hit a slow grounder toward the pitcher. The runner broke for home. The pitcher fielded the ball, ignored the batter-runner and turned toward the runner headed home. That runner froze inches shy of the commitment line. The pitcher trotted toward him, glove extended. Just before being tagged, the runner slid a foot across the commitment line.

By rule, the runner was safe for being tagged past the commitment line. He didn't even need to finish going home.

An experienced fielder knows to watch the runner's feet. He would extend the glove, as if he is going to apply a tag, but wait for the runner to slip across the commitment line. Then he would throw home for the easy force out.

Now, let's return to the question near the top of this column. Can a runner ever

return legally to third base after crossing the commitment line?

Yes.

But only when the umpire sends the runner back.

One example: Runners are at first and third when the batter hits a slow roller toward the second-baseman. The runner from first collides with the fielder. The umpire yells "dead ball," calls that runner out for interference and sends the other runner – even if already past the commitment line – back to third base.

Another example: A batter singles to the right field with a runners on second and third and one out. That runner, who represents the inning's fifth run, jogs home and crosses the scoring line. Thinking the inning has ended, the batter-runner enters his dugout without touching first base. The umpire calls the batter-runner out. The ball is dead and all runners must return to the base occupied at the time of the pitch. That includes the runner who'd jogged home from third.

As these examples show, there are times when crossing the commitment line doesn't matter.

Most of the time, however, runners and fielders should pay attention to that short white line – and understand what it means.

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



Bobby Davis (Player Category) SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2018.

SSUSA Inducts 3 Into Hall of Fame

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – Senior Softball USA awarded top honors to Fran Dowell of California in the Director category (see separate story on page 6), Bobby Davis of Florida in the Player category and Diana Gano of Arizona in the Manager category, inducting these three into the International SSUSA Hall of Fame here Nov. 30.

Delegates at the SSUSA Annual Convention also elected four Hall of Fame inductees for 2019:

*Rick Seifman of Arizona in the Director category.

*Hugh Brotherton of Florida in the Manager category.

*Ken "Boggie" Van Bogaert of Wisconsin in the

Continued on Next Page



TRUMP : OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

BSN SPORTS : OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127

Fran Dowell: Heart & Soul of SSUSA

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – In a moving ceremony which drew a standing ovation, Fran Dowell was inducted into the 2018 Senior Softball USA Hall of Fame in the Director category here Nov. 30.

Dowell, SSUSA's executive director, made a lasting impression with her acceptance speech, in which she recognized the staff, directors, umpires and sponsors – never mentioning her own achievements.

"Fran is truly unique in our sport – and extremely accomplished. In fact, she not only shattered expectations in a male-dominated sport, but has been the driving force in redefining the very culture of senior softball," said Terry Hennessy, chief executive officer of SSUSA, in introducing her.

Her accomplishments included:

- *Being named the first woman Executive Director in a major national softball organization in 2006.



Fran Dowell with Terry Hennessy (left) and Dave Dowell during the SSUSA HOF Awards Banquet.

- *Recognized by Sports Events Magazine in both 2009 and 2012, as one of the top 12 sports promoters in America, winning their coveted Award of Excellence both years.

- *Elected into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2015 with the most votes ever recorded for a candidate.

- *For the past 15 years, Fran has guided the largest senior tournaments in the sport, including the World Master

Championships, which drew more than 624 teams to Las Vegas this year.

- *She has increased the number of cities in which SSUSA holds tournaments from 35 in 2005 to 90 in 2019 and helped bring SSUSA league support and sanctioning to more than 300 cities.

- *Under her leadership as executive director, tournaments infuse more than \$160 million a year into the econo-

mies of the cities we touch.

"But Fran's lasting legacy will be the unabashed caring and concern for so many players, managers and their families," said Hennessy. The rewards for this aren't nearly as flashy as the national recognition for her outstanding accomplishments.

"But they mean much, much more to Fran. That is evident in the scores of cards she sends out to comfort and congratulate when a player or family member needs it most; it is in the constant phone calls that let players know she cares; it is in the fact that she really does want to help players and make sure they not only have the best possible experience on the field – but to know they are can count on her as a friend.

"I've said many times, over many years, that Fran is the heart and soul of senior softball – and that is because she has put her heart and soul into helping players and teams," said Hennessy.

SSUSA Awards: Diana Gano Named HOF Manager

Continued from Previous Page
Specialty/Player category.

*Joe Franco in the Player category

Those four will be inducted at the 2019 SSUSA Convention in Las Vegas in December 2019.

In addition, SSUSA honored a number of others with awards for exemplary service in 2018.

In this year's Hall of Fame inductions, Bobby Davis was inducted as SSUSA's

Hall of Fame Player for 2018.

Davis played for the All Star US Military team as a member of the US Air Force and has been inducted into three Hall of Fames and has played on some of the top teams in the sport.

In addition to playing at the highest level in Senior Softball, Davis played on several international tournaments, including in Japan, China, Taiwan, Cuba, Spain, Germany and a number of

other countries.

He has trained youth in many of those places – and will be teaching the first Camp for Chinese Youth in Florida in February.

Diana Gano was inducted as SSUSA's 2018 Hall of Fame Manager.

Gano founded the Senior Saints in Arizona in 1999 as a non-profit corporation to promote softball for senior women.

The Saints organization

grew quickly, and by 2004 had four women's teams, ranging in age from 40 to 60. That year the Saints 40 team won the World Championships in Phoenix and the Winter Worlds in Las Vegas.

The Silver Saints, a 55-plus team, were undefeated champions in the Major Division of the Senior Softball World Series. Additionally, they won several gold medals at the Phoenix Senior

Continued on Next Page

SSUSA Awards: SSUSA Class of '19 Announced

Continued from Previous Page



Diana Gano (Manager Category) SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2018.

Olympics and Prescott Senior Olympics and won the SSWC Tucson Showdown.

Gano also was the first National Women's Director for SSUSA.

The four people elected to the 2019 Hall of fame were announced at the same time.

Rick Seifman of Arizona was elected as SSUSA's Hall of Fame Director for 2019.



Rick Seifman

Seifman, SSUSA's vice-president/umpires, has been instrumental in many aspects of Senior Softball since 1996.

He has been a National Tournament Director, sched-

uler, director and has been Vice President of Umpires for the past 10 years. He helped build the modern program since the Bob Mitchell years.

He has brought his expertise as running the largest softball programs of any age group in Arizona to senior softball and has been a guiding force in Senior Softball USA emerging as premier senior program in America.

Joe Franco of Washington State was selected as the SSUSA Player for 2019.



Joe Franco

Joe Franco has been an impact player in the Northwest, and a constant on WE Ruth teams for almost three decades. Beginning in 1991, Joe was First Team All American in the ASA 40+ Worlds.

In 1992, 1993 and 1994 Joe was named First Team All World in the USSSA 40+ Worlds. In 1995 and 1999, Joe aged up and made ASA First Team in both years – including being the lead hitter in the 1995 ASA Worlds.

In SSUSA, Joe won All Tournaments for the SSUSA World Championships in 2001, 2002 and 2013.

He picked up senior All World honors in USSSA in 2004 and ASA in 2015, where

he won the National Championships Batting title.

Ken "Boggie" Van Bogaert of Wisconsin was elected in the SSUSA Player/Specialty Category.



Ken "Boggie" Van Bogaert

"Boggie" is recognized as one of the top softball hitters in the nation – and has taught literally thousands of players the art of hitting.

Since 1993, his ROTATIONAL POWER HITTING for slowpitch softball, baseball, and fastpitch has sold more videos worldwide than any other hitting instructor. His company also teaches nationally by running clinics, individual lessons, by distance emailing of video and SKYPE

for swing analysis breakdown, and finally by teaching at his three-cage facility near Belmont, Wis.

Boggie has played at the top level of the sport for decades, most recently for the Powerhouse Pope Transport of Wisconsin and Roberts Construction. Boggie has been a force – and an ambassador – for the sport for decades.

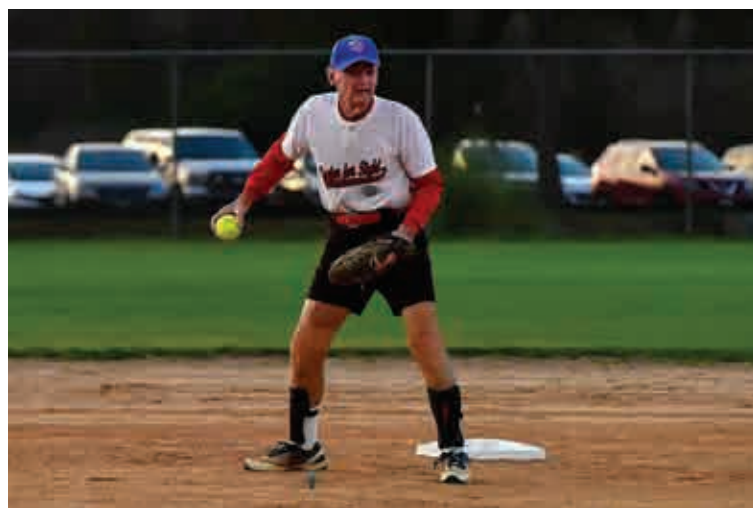
Hugh Brotherton of Florida was elected as SSUSA's Hall of Fame Manager.

Brotherton is a positive force of nature. When he enters a room, he lifts everyone's spirit with his zest for softball – and life.

Brotherton was the driving force in establish the first 80-year-old team in Senior Softball and four years ago, he established the first 85 team.

He has managed Center For Sight to several World Championships and to three Triple Grand Slam titles. Hugh's leadership in the oldest divisions of senior softball has been an inspiration to younger teams who all hope

Continued on Page 9



Hugh Brotherton

Opinions & Letters

Senior Softball: An Oasis of Sanity

EDITOR'S NOTE: These are Terry Hennessy's closing remarks to the 2018 SSUSA/ISA Convention in Las Vegas on Nov. 30. Hennessy is Senior Softball USA's chief executive officer.

Our sport offers an oasis of sanity in a world caught up in bitter divisiveness.

Consider how lucky we are to create activities in which a person's worth is measured by simple standards of throwing, hitting, fielding and – above all – teamwork and sportsmanship.

Sportsmanship is our foundation and concepts of integrity and fairness define our goals.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of political, religious or just plain whacky beliefs.

We don't care; players can be as crazy as they like as long as they follow the rules, respect each other and are good teammates.

We may be a small beacon of light in these dark and discordant times.... but we are very much like an oasis. It is not important because of its size – it is important because it exists.

We believe without apology that people can work together for a common goal – and our players prove it every time they take the field.

What better positive example can we offer?

I am proud to work together with you to provide this welcomed opportunity to thousands of players – and this classic example of hope



Sue Ballenger

to many, many more.

We continue to lead Senior Softball in numbers and innovation. But we can never take that leadership for granted.

The foundation for Senior

Softball USA is fairness, integrity and honesty. As long as we remain true to our core values – and keep in mind that we are doing this for the players and the teams, I believe we will succeed.

Nana's in the Outfield Celebrates Senior Game

By Janet Mitchell
Senior Softball News Guest Contributor

I have played softball all my life, and it gets more fun every year. I now play in the 60+ women's age group with my senior team of 18 years, the Maryland Roadrunners.

We all know that it is incredibly important to stay physically active, as well as socially engaged, as we age. Playing on a senior team provides the opportunity for both.

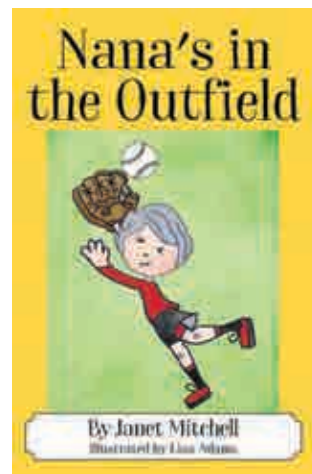
It's no surprise that tens of thousands participate around the country.

I decided to write a children's book to celebrate our participation in and love of senior softball. The idea for the book came at the National Senior Olympic Games in Birmingham, AL in 2017.

While watching a game, I observed a little girl – probably about 7 years old – who was upset because she could not locate her grandmother.

When she said, "Mom, I can't find Nana – where is she?", her mother answered, "Nana's in the outfield!" I knew right then and there that I had to write that book!

This book celebrates our participation. It also reinforces the message that doing one's best, supporting one's teammates and enjoying the effort is important for those of any age. I think that's an important message for everyone. And while it's technically a chil-



Continued on Next Page

SSUSA Awards: Yearly Awards Handed Out

Continued from Page 7

to be playing when they reach 85.



George Page

SSUSA also recognized several others for exemplary service:

SSUSA's top award, the Award of Excellence was given to **David Rodriguez** of Clark County Parks and Recreation Department, and **Dale Eeles** of Las Vegas Events,

who won the award for an unprecedented second time.

Robyn Nichols of Reno/Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority received the Executive Director Award for outstanding achievement.

Mike Hula of Nevada was recognized as SSUSA's Director of the year.

David Lee of California was Umpire of the Year

Bill Geisbauer of Minnesota was named Regional Director of the year.

Freedom Park Softball Complex in Valdosta, Ga., was named Complex of the Year. George Page, Executive Director at Valdosta-Lowndes County Parks and Recreation Authority, was in attendance to accept the award.

Freedom Park hosted the 2018 Eastern National Championships, and is set to host the 2019 Southern Championships.



Dale Eeles and Fran Dowell.



Mike Hula and Fran Dowell.



Terry Hennessy, David Lee and Fran Dowell.

Nana: A Children's Book for All Ages

Continued from Previous Page
dren's book, it can be enjoyed by all of us. After all, playing senior softball can make you feel like a kid again (except for those aches and pains)!

I knew what messages I wanted to convey in the book, and I worked with an illustrator to add appropriate illustrations. I enjoyed the process immensely, as I had a chance to really focus on what we do on the field and why we love it.

I selected a self-publish-

ing company and the result was so gratifying. Next, I needed to decide how I wanted to sell the book.

We all know how expensive it can become the more we participate in tournaments: entry fees and travel expenses do add up quickly. A few women's teams are fortunate to have sponsors to cover at least some of the cost, but most do not. Therefore, fundraising becomes a very important part of our team.

I decided I would sell the

book at our tournaments and donate the profits to my team. The response has been wonderful. Teams are generally pretty good about supporting other teams' fundraising, but it's been especially rewarding to hear stories of grandmothers reading the book to their grandchildren, sending it to their grandchildren along with a medal they have won, and having players ask for extra copies for their senior leagues back home.

Our senior team, the

Maryland Roadrunners, is selling the books as a fundraiser. While it is available on Amazon, if purchased directly from me, the team earns more money per copy.

If you are interested in purchasing the book, please email me at this email address: MitchellJanetL@comcast.net (please note the "L" in the email). Each copy is \$10; shipping and handling is an additional \$2.00.

Most importantly – keep on playing!!



TRUMP: OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

BSN SPORTS: OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127

The Strength of Senior Softball - Love

When Pam left the room, Bob thought little of it. After 39 years of marriage they enjoyed the *old shoe* comfort that only a long marriage laces together with laughter, understanding and acceptance.

They had married in a grand cathedral. The walls of which are the great cliffs of Yosemite, a land of beauty, inspiration and challenge—like their marriage. No rock in the valley stood taller or stronger than they would be for each other.

Apprehension swept through him when he heard the crash. From his Navy SEAL training he knew instantly that the fallen figure he found was in mortal danger and as he called 911, his heart encased in lead.

Only Bob knows his thoughts over the next 24 hours as his faithful, loving wife, lie unconscious on the road to death, but we all know

Carl's Corner By Carl Gustafson

either from experience or vicariously, that it is a dreadfully lonely place, and none of us wants to go there.

Bob Looney's wife was pronounced dead the last day of November and he showed up for softball the following Tuesday.

To those who don't understand our culture, it might seem contrary to the needs of grief, but to those of us who have come to understand through countless kindnesses that senior softball is a tightknit family, to show up among his brothers is absolutely where a crestfallen warrior would come to salve his wounds and seek the warmth of compas-

sion.

Bob is a tall, tough, rugged man, who doesn't call attention to himself or wallow in self-pity, but he was so overwhelmingly bolstered and comforted by us, his softball family, that he allowed me to tell this story.

"He was so overwhelmingly bolstered and comforted by us, his softball family, that he allowed me to tell this story."

It is one that illuminates for all of us the real beauty of our sport which I watched that Tuesday as player after player, teammate and opponent, embraced him; gripped his arm, his shoulder, his hand; patted him, and to a man, unflinchingly, looked deep into his grief filled eyes and offered up their very souls for him to

imbibe and share and hold on to.

Bob told only two softball people the night a brain aneurysm laid Pam to rest, but by morning he was inundated with calls, emails, texts and offers of help.

I had just returned from our annual convention where this year's theme seemed to be Senior Softball as a family.

Every Hall of Fame inductee mentioned it time and time again, and it was the cornerstone upon which Senior Softball CEO Terry Hennessy structured his final address.

Our sport is played with bats, balls, gloves, and rules, but at the senior level where so many suffer with ailments and where death is the last out, the strength of our game — is love.

Carl Gustafson is Senior Softball - USA's Southern California Director.

SSUSA Continues Southeast Expansion

Softball News Report

Senior Softball USA announced a major expansion in the Southeast for 2019, adding 6 National Qualifiers.

"We've had numerous requests from teams that want to play in tournaments in which they know rosters are checked to ensure fair – and equal -- competition," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA's executive director. "The Qualifiers also give teams a chance to qualify for the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas, the largest tournament in the sport."

The new qualifiers mark the single biggest expansion in a region in more than a decade for Senior Softball USA.

SSUSA said it was planning a series of special promotions to kick off the tournaments.

"We have some very exciting promotions for this new series of tournaments – keep tuned!" said Dowell.

The Qualifiers include:

April 13-14: Music City National Qualifier in Franklin, TN.

April 25-28: Peach State Classic National Qualifier in Gwin-

nett County, GA.

May 18-19: Old South Classic in Savannah, GA.

July 6-7: Palmetto Challenge in Spartanburg SC.

Aug. 17-18: Myrtle Beach Blast in South Carolina.

Aug. 24-25: Last Chance Cullman Qualifier in Cullman, AL.

Visit <https://seniorsoftball.com/?events> for more information on each tournament, as well as the rest of the 2019 SSUSA Tournament lineup.

Heard in the Dugout

"I used to count sheep, but they made such a racket with their baaing that it kept me awake. Now I count oranges on an imaginary orange tree!" - Gracie Allen



TRUMP : OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA
BSN SPORTS : OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127



EMPIRE

HELMER
HITMAN



BALANCED AND END-LOADED MODELS

DESIGNED FOR EXPLOSIVE PERFORMANCE

TRIPLE WALL COMPOSITE TECHNOLOGY

AVAILABLE AT EASTON.COM & EASTON EMPIRE DEALER NETWORK LOCATIONS



FOLLOW EASTON SLOW-PITCH AT



@EASTONSLOWPITCH



@EASTONSLOWPITCH



@SLOWPITCHEASTON

Bill Ruth Highlights NSSHOF Class of '18

OKLAHOMA CITY – The National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) has officially unveiled the Class of 2018, including Bill Ruth, the president of Senior Softball USA. Eighteen inductees make up the newest class including one manager, six pioneer players, one pioneer woman player, eight men players and two women players.

Ruth, one of the best-known names nationally in softball since the 1960s, has led his teams to national titles in ASA and USSSA. Later, in Senior ball, his teams have competed and won at the highest levels (Major and Major-Plus) in SSUSA, SPA, World Series, LVSSA, ASA and USSSA.

On the International Stage, Ruth has managed US teams that have won in Ireland, Dominican Republic, Australia, England, Italy and Spain.

While Ruth was recognized as a Hall of Fame Manager, he would easily have qualified in the Player Category for his superb pitching skills. He continually pitched on teams 10 years younger than himself at the highest level.

Ruth could have qualified in the Director category, as well. He is not only owner of ISA, but is president of SSUSA – and served as Chairman of the National Senior Softball Summit from 2008-2009.

Ruth has been inducted into the USSSA Hall of Fame, the Washington State Hall of Fame, the ISA Hall of Fame and the SSUSA Hall of Fame.

"I've known and played



Terry Hennessy (L) presents Bill Ruth with NSSHOF Plaque

with Bill for 20 years and he is one of my closest friends. He is a tenacious manager, an extremely skillful pitcher and a wonderful business partner," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer.

Pioneer Player Category

The Pioneer Player Category consisted of six players: Robert Hruz, Mike Leitner, Richard Ochampaugh, Richard Osborn, Marv Rueck and James Thomas.

Hruz, 86, of Maryland, has been playing slow-pitch softball for 35 years.

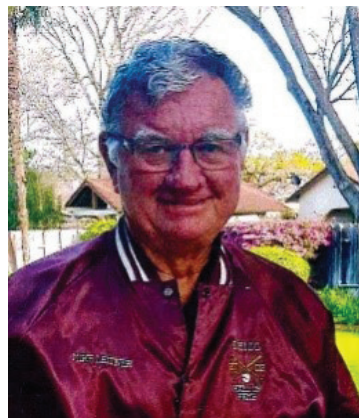


Robert Hruz

Playing with Mitchell's Eastern States/Mitchell's Construction, Hruz helped lead his teams to numerous championships in the various senior softball organizations, including SPA, ISSA, SSUSA, LVSSA and ASA.

His teams have won a combined 17 national championships and 60 tournaments overall, with Hruz earning nine all-tournament selections.

Lietner, 77, of California, spans a senior softball career of 26 years.



Mike Leitner

From 2003-2007 and 2010-2014, Leitner earned all-tournament selections in the SSUSA Worlds and LVSSA/

SSUSA World Masters Championships.

Leitner has played with some of the top teams in California at the Major Plus level, including San Francisco Seals 75, San Francisco Seals 70 (then Streamline Circuits 70), and NorCal Bluejays 65, among others. Leitner helped lead his teams to the Triple Grand Slam in 2016 (SF Seals 75) and 2011 (SF Seals 70).

From 1968-2000, Leitner served as the Northern California Softball Commissioner for ASA; and was inducted into the Chico Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2002.

Ochampaugh, 79, of New York, began his senior softball career in the early 2000s playing with the Syracuse Cyclones 60 team.



Richard Ochampaugh

In 2007 and 2008, Ochampaugh helped lead his teams to a victory at the SSUSA World Championships in Phoenix.

The 2007 season saw his Syracuse Cyclones 65 AA team win the 15-team division, as the No. 12 seeded

Continued on Next Page

NSSHOF: 18 Members Make Up Class of '18

Continued from Previous Page
Cinderella Cyclones posted a perfect 5-0 record in bracket play.

In 2008, his Syracuse Cyclones 70 AAA team posted went unbeaten (4-0 in seeding and 4-0 in bracket) to win the 12-team division. Ochampaugh would earn All-Tournament honors both times.

Playing with the New York Statesmen 75 at the 2015 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships, Ochampaugh led his team to a runner-up finish in the eight-team division, while earning All-Tournament honors.

With SPA, Ochampaugh earned All-American honors with the NY Statesmen 75 in 2014 and 2015.

Osborn, of California, who died in 2004 at the age of 82, had a senior softball career spanning 17 years.



Richard Osborn

Playing with La Mesa 65s and San Diego Silverhawks (70, 75, 80), Osborn compiled seven SSWC World Championships and eight All-Tournament selections.

Osborn served in the Army Air Forces during World War II.

Rueck, 79, of Oregon, has a senior softball career of 28 years.



Marv Rueck

Rueck helped lead his General Equipment 75 team to the Triple Grand Slam title in both 2015 and 2017 (PDR Fastsigns). Rueck earned an All-Tournament selection for his performance at the 2015 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

Along with the PDR Fastsigns 70 and 75 teams (now General Equipment 75), Rueck also has played with WE Ruth Realty 60 and 65, The Bellettinni 70, and First American Title 65, among others. In SPA, Rueck earned All-American honors in 2000, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Thomas, 86, of Michigan, has an incredible senior softball career of 35 years, dating back to 1982 in Oak Park, Mich.

Most recently playing with Center For Sight 85 (FL), Thomas helped lead the team to back-to-back titles at the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships (2017 and 2018).

Along with Center For Sight, Thomas has also played for Florida Investment Proper-

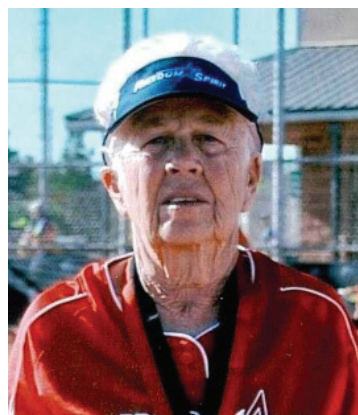


James Thomas

ties 80, Arizona Prospectors 75 and 80, Arizona Wranglers 70 and Arizona Mustangs 65. Thomas has won titles in numerous organizations, including SSUSA, SPA, Huntsmen Games and National Senior Olympics.

Pioneer Woman Player Category

Rosemary Austin, 82, of Florida, is the lone inductee in the Pioneer Woman Player Category.



Rosemary Austin

Austin began playing softball again at 34, organizing a women's league. She played on four teams over a 16-year span. After retiring and moving to Florida, she began playing in a local league, starting with Golden Gals 60-65 and went on to Florida

Spirit, where she continues to play today.

Austin earned Best Defensive Player honors in 2016 in SPA.

Player Category

The Player Category saw eight inductees enshrined, as Gary Ellison, Robert Hough, Dave Meggison, Stephen Pierson, Patrick Ricci, Rich Schmidt, Andrew Snyder and Stan Suichta all received the call to the hall.

Ellison, 67, of Virginia, has racked up 11 All-Tournament selections dating back to 2001. Playing with Fergies, Rekco, and Turn 2, Ellison earned All-Tournament selections throughout numerous associations including ISA, ASA, USSSA, SPA, ISSA, NSA, ISF, and LVSSA.



Gary Ellison

Most recently in SSUSA, Ellison has played with Carolina Cobras, while also playing with Superior Senior Softball.

Hough, 72, of Utah, began his senior softball career in 1995 with BRL. A career currently spanning 23 years, Hough has played at the Major and Major Plus levels with teams such as Omen

Continued on Next Page

NSSHOF: Eight Highlight Player Category

Continued from Previous Page



Robert Hough

70, St. George Gold, Scrap Iron 70 Legacy, and Tharaldson's, among others. Between SSUSA/LVSSA and SPA, Hough has earned eight All-Tournament selections.

Meggison (aka "Mango"), 63, of California, began his Senior Softball career in 2005 with the Seacrest Mavericks.



Dave "Mango" Meggison

Meggison has racked up 10 All-Tournament selections throughout the various senior softball organizations including SSUSA, LVSSA, SPA, ISSA, and NASCS.

Along with the Mavericks, Meggison has also

played with Road Dogs, Kellys Sports, Summy's, Nighthawks, and Sommerville Softball, which he also manages.

Pierson, 66, of North Carolina, joins the NSSHOF Class of '18 along with his fellow teammate, Gary Ellison.



Stephen Pierson

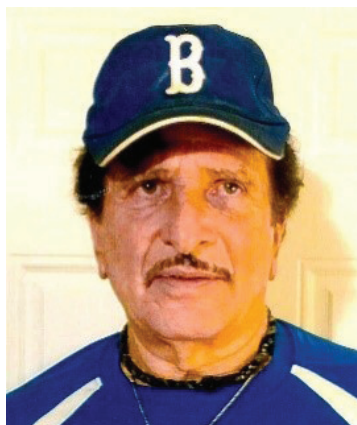
Pierson began his senior softball career with the Carolina All Stars (now Carolina Cobras), while also playing with Superior Senior Softball.

During his career, Pierson has racked up 15 All-Tournament selections across SPA, ISSA, ASA, and SSUSA/LVSSA.

Ricci, 72, of New Jersey, has been participating in senior softball for 22 years, beginning with NJ Mizuno. Ricci has also played with Jersey Classics, Monkey Joe's, Jersey Metro, EPA Statesmen and currently with Bradford White.

For his efforts, Ricci has earned All-Tournament selections throughout the numerous associations, including SSUSA, SPA, and ISSA.

Schmidt, 74, of California, has played senior softball for 16 years and is a long-time member of Omen 70. He played with Omen



Patrick Ricci

75 in 2018. He's also played with Omen 65 and Nor-Cal Bluejays 65, among others. Schmidt earned numerous All-Tournament selections playing in the SSUSA Worlds and LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

Schmidt joins fellow Omen 70 teammate, Robert Hough, in the NSSHOF Class of 2018.



Rich Schmidt

Snyder, 66, of New Jersey, enters the hall of fame as a long-time member of Sweet Construction, playing on the 50, 55 and 60 age teams.

He began his senior softball career playing with Promotion Sportswear and earned nine All-Tournament selections from 2002-2012.

Suichta, 73, of Colorado, has played with some of the top teams out of Colorado,



Andrew Snyder

including Scrap Iron/Phiten 65 Major, Scrap Iron Legends 70 Major, and Scrap Iron 70 Legacy Major Plus. He's also played with some teams out of Arizona and New Mexico.

In 21 years of playing senior softball, Suichta earned All-Tournament selections in SSUSA, SPA, NASCS and ISA. Suichta was inducted into the Colorado USSA Hall of Fame in 2001, and the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame in 2008. Suichta also joins his former Scrap Iron 70 Legacy teammate, Robert Hough, in the NSSHOF Class of 2018.



Stan Suichta

Woman Player Category

The Woman Player Category includes Angie Ayala

Continued on Next Page



TRUMP: OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

BSN SPORTS: OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127

NSSHOF: Ayala Inducted at Winter Worlds

Continued from Previous Page



Barbara Foxx

and Barbara Foxx.

Ayala, 64, of Arizona, has been participating in senior softball for 18 years.

She began playing with



Angie Ayala was officially Inducted into the NSSHOF during the 2018 Winter World Championships in Phoenix, AZ

AZ Saints and now plays with Arizona Dream Team, which she also manages.

Ayala and her Arizona Dream Team played in SSUSA's Tournament of Champions every year from

2013-2016.

Ayala held her NSSHOF Induction Ceremony during the 2018 Winter World Championships this past November.

Foxx, 64, of North Carolina, has been participat-

ing in senior softball for 10 years, playing with Dreamgirlz, arguably one of the top women's teams in the country.

Foxx has earned nine All-Tournament selections, while also helping lead Dreamgirlz to SSUSA's Triple Grand Slam title five straight seasons from 2013-2017.

This success led to Dreamgirlz earning the first move up to Major Plus for a Women's team.

Please visit the [National Senior Softball Hall of Fame](#) website for more information.

To view the entire 18-member NSSHOF Class of 2018, please [CLICK HERE](#).

For more information regarding nomination requirements and procedures, please [CLICK HERE](#).

2018 Winter Nationals Host 105 Teams

Softball News Report

FT. MYERS, FL – The first Original Tournament of Champions (TOC) Qualifier of the 2019 season was held here, Nov. 6 -11, with 105 teams participating across 21 age divisions at the 18th Annual Winter National Championships.

Twenty-one teams secured their invitations for the TOC in February of 2020:

Suncoast Adidas (FL)
Men's 40 Major Plus
Suncoast Adidas (FL)
Men's 50 Major Plus
Brickyard Classics (IN)
Men's 50 Major
Depend On A Friend
Foundation (FL) Men's 50
AAA
RBC Wealth Management
(FL) Men's 55 Major Plus
Derby City (KY) Men's



55 Major
Vecter Scorpions (FL)
Men's 55 AAA
Florida Stingers Men's 60
Major Plus
Levin/Ameriprise (FL)
Men's 60 Major
Long Island Jaguars (NY)
Men's 60 AAA
Glory Daze (KY) Men's
60 AA
Team Florida Men's 65
Major Plus
Beef O'Brady's Southern

Trace (FL) Men's 65 Major
Jersey Masters Red (NJ)
Men's 65 AAA
Kentuckiana (IN) Men's
65 AA
Venom (FL) Men's 70
Major Plus
Michaels/Handeland (WI)
Men's 70 Major
Bradford White/Jersey
Masters (NJ) Men's 70 AAA
Florida Legends Men's 75
Major Plus
Monkey Joe's Big Nut
Co. (NJ) Men's 75 Major
Jersey Masters (NJ)
Men's 75 AAA

In addition, there were nine Men's 80+ teams that participated in the 2018 Winter National Championships:
Bucs and Bulls 80's (FL)
Cape Cod Shark 80s
(MA)
Chicago Geezers 80's (IL)

Florida Investment Properties 80's (FL)
New York Statesmen 80's
(NY)
Peach Tree Restaurant
80's (PA)
ProHealth Care 80's (WI)
Center For Sight 85's
(FL)
ProHealth Legends 85's
(MN)

As the elder statesmen of the game, these teams will all automatically receive invitations to the Tournament of Champions next February in Polk County, FL.

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



TRUMP : OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

BSN SPORTS : OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127

Winter Nationals: All-Tournament Teams

The top three teams from the Winter Nationals selected All-Tournament members.

Men's 50 Platinum

Brickyard Classics (IN): Paul Hanley, Chris Lang, Timothy Smith, David Owen.

AMR-DLB (OH): Robert Noeth, Craig Ellis, Jeffrey Grate.

Men's 50 AAA

Depend On A Friend Foundation (FL): Jack Arcuri, Hank Buczynski, Chris Cabrera, Paul Conover Jr., Carlos Rodriguez.

Public Enemy (FL): John Loftus, Dominick Biondo, Mike Lloyd, Walter Massie, Jr.

Sandlot Softball (FL): Chris Marker, Tony Lanza, Terry Palmi.

Men's 55 Major Plus

RBC Wealth Management (FL): Gerard Blair, Kevin Gordon, William Vriesenga, Tony Bassett, Louis Sanchez.

Men's 55 Major

Derby City (KY): Timothy Powell, Kevin Curry, Anthony Ferrell, Tony Stansbury, Harold Adams.

Action Auto Parts (RI): Robert Smith, Jeff Bloch, Robert Putney, Bill Lancellotta.

Dayton Legends (OH): Mark Harrison, Rick Hoppe, Tim Knecht.

Men's 55 AAA

Vector Scorpions (FL): Thomas Lowther, Andrew Packard, Michael Chnupa, Chuck Torgler, Jr., Gerry DuGuay.

Ameriprise FL Legends: Steven Fowler, Dave Leon, Kurt Musial.

Men's 60 Major Plus

Florida Stingers: Gregory Wacha, Rick Leith, Louis Reyes, Jr., Robert Lehman, Jr., James Lacey.

Southern Ruckus (FL): Randy Parker, Norman Edwards, Edward Hough, John Beasley.

Central Illinois Chiefs: Lonnie Netzel, Randy McElDowney, Bill Walkenbach.

Men's 60 Major

Levin/Ameriprise (FL): Mickey O'Donnell, Larry Toglia, John Miles, Ed Matulay, Abby Ambron.

Chicago Prime (IL): Richard DeLay, Jeffrey Horn, Anthony Davis, Lovelle Johnkin.

Action Auto Parts (RI): David Hawkins, Tom Hagist, Thomas Mooney.

Men's 60 AAA

Long Island Jaguars (NY): Michael Cohen, Richard Caravaggio, James Goelz, Lenny Glover, Thomas O'Brien.

Playmakers (WI): Herbert Hannam, Tom Sweinberg, Dave Gerdman, John Cardo.

Cincinnati 60's (OH): Earl Hoover, Teddy Weingartner, Mike Viox.

Men's 60 AAA

Glory Daze (KY): Mitchell Smith, Richard Oppel, Danny Hall, Roger Cochran, David Johnson.

Ted Todd Insurance (FL): Larry Lepore, Dan Fischer, Jim Hamilton, Paul Steinitz.

Men's 65/70 Major Plus

Venom 70 (FL): Vincent Melograno, James Davidson, Stewart Casterline, Dennis Schroader, Bob Schreyer.

Team Florida 65: Richard Meltz, Tony Vodola, Michael Henderson, Tom Turton.

New Jersey Hitmen 65: Carl Nocera, Frank O'Neill, Joseph Czarnecki.

Men's 65 Major

Beef O'Brady's Southern Trace (FL): Dave McDermott, Bob Crafton, Rocky Spottwood, Rick Rivard, Tom Houser.

Who's On First (FL): Steven Brand, Marvin Swosinski, William Crowl, Bill Velto.

AMR South (FL): Gary Grodzicki, Gary McSweeney, Mike Brogan.

Men's 65 AAA

Jersey Masters Red (NJ): Edmund Kushner, Stephen Ferro, Dennis Watson, Tom Pasko, Tom Straniero.

Long Island Jaguars White (NY): Ken Schultz, Jon Glazer, Andy Appell, William Fox.

Studz (WI): Herbert Hannam, John Cardo, Donald Laine, Jr.

Men's 65 AA

Kentuckiana (IN): Steven Greenert, Sr., James Douglas Steele, Richard Heil, Gary Pawlick, Doug Dukes, David Barnes.

Action Auto Parts (RI): Kenneth Sheehan, Manuel Costa, Kevin Sheehan, James Dean, Gerry Deshaies.

Men's 70 Major

Michaels/Handeland (WI): Brad Mueller, Gary Luck, Robert Szaniawski, Bert Hempler, Wayne Fiedler.

Minnesota Prize: Don Goltz, Jerry Smrekar, Bob Frey, Robert Goldstrand.

CC Medical Services (NY): Joe Cataldi, John Davide, Joseph May.

Men's 70 Silver

Bradford White/Jersey Masters (NJ): Richard Boehmer, Joseph DeFabio, Richard Polonitza, Raymond Poyer, Lou Vilotti.

Lane Construction (FL): Bill Hans, Terry McIlrath, Don Bobish.

Florida Southern Force: John Baker, Mark Solomon, Gary Bowers.

Men's 75 Platinum

Florida Legends: David Decker, Robert Conrad, Thomas Dabbs, Michael Marcum, Robert Koss.

Chadwell Supply (FL): Ray Dye, William Denegar, Alan Balfour.

Men's 75 AAA

Jersey Masters (NJ): Richard Lillich, Fred Prince, John Forames, David Maddalena, Richard Pagliaro.

Syracuse Cyclones (NY): Robert Wood, Ken Moses, Daniel Dillon, Joseph Broun, Edward Bergamini, Howard Bernard.

Chicago Gray Sox (IL): Jerry Santerelli, Jack Zuzak, Wayne Markett.

Men's 80 Platinum

Florida Investment Properties: John Fournier, Jacob Wood, Billy Brotherton, Ray Dye, Thomas Sides, Frank Vargo.

New York Statesmen: Jim Nugent, Edward Finnegan, Douglas Hogue, Jack Westbrook.

Men's 80 AAA

Chicago Geezers (IL): Anthony Gurdak, Al Savala, Mickey Mills, Gordy Tozier, James Dedelow.

Cape Cod Sharks (MA): Robert Robidoux, John Seliga, Henry Baldassarri, Jack Deschamps.

Men's 85 Major

ProHealth Legends (MN): Roger Schroder, RC Brown, Willie Wood, Robert D'Amadio, Henry Smith.

Center For Sight (FL): Tommy Hicks, Tom Ingham, James Thomas, David Bush.

Managers, if your team is missing, please email your all-tournament selections to anthony@seniorsoftball.com.

JOIN THE SSUSA LEAGUE FAMILY!

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

SSUSA also provides the best deals on approved softballs with free delivery when ordering six dozen or more. This is a great program that can work for all leagues.

Please call our office at 916-326-5303 and ask for Stephanie or Fran for a quote.



DUDLEY

IS EXCITED TO INTRODUCE THE NEW

LIGHTNING LEGEND[®] LiFT

BAT SERIES FOR 2018



LITE FRAME TECHNOLOGY (LiFT) ALLOWS EVERY PLAYER, ESPECIALLY PLAYERS WHO WANT TO SWING DUDLEY'S FIRST EVER 25 oz. SENIOR SOFTBALL BATS, MAXIMUM BAT SPEED AT IMPACT. IT'S SIMPLE SOFTBALL PHYSICS:

LiFT + GRIP SPIN TECHNOLOGY = BOMBS!

VISIT THE **DUDLEY** TENT AT THE **SSUSA WORLD TOURNAMENT**
FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE NEW LIGHTNING LEGEND LiFT BATS



Risks of Carbohydrate Concentration Above 6%

By Stan Reents

Senior Softball News Contributor

In my last column, I provided some basic information on fluid and sodium intake.

Next, let's explore the pros and cons of sports drinks and energy drinks, starting with the basic question: What's the difference between the two?

There's no universal definition for sports drinks or energy drinks. And, the distinction is blurred further when sports drinks are advertised as providing quick energy.

Sports drinks are typically a solution of simple sugars with small amounts of electrolytes like sodium and potassium added. Sports drinks rarely contain caffeine. Cytomax, Gatorade and Powerade are examples here, though many brands are available. Some sports drinks also contain protein or amino acids and these are generally intended to be consumed right after exercise or competition ends and, as such, are often referred to as recovery drinks.

Energy drinks are essentially soda pop with vitamins, herbal supplements, and/or amino acids. Sports drinks almost never include vitamins and herbs. Energy drinks contain much more sugar than sports drinks and more caffeine than soda pop. Energy drinks are usually carbonated, whereas sports drinks never are. Full Throttle, Monster, NOS and Red Bull are popular brands of energy drinks.

That begs the question, do sports drinks contain too much sugar?

It's unhealthy to consume a lot of sugar. Sports drinks and energy drinks contain sucrose, fructose and glucose, so should these beverages be avoided?

These simple sugars are an excellent source of energy for exercising muscles. Though, carbohydrate concentrations below 2 percent won't enhance performance, while amounts above 6 percent increase the risk of stomach cramps.

Sports drinks contain the optimum sugar concentration to provide quick energy during prolonged sports competition: Gatorade "Thirst Quencher" (the original formulation) contains 21 grams of carbs per 12 fluid ounces. That works out to 5.8 percent. Cytomax and Powerade are similar. (NOTE: Multiple formulations of these brands are available.)

But the sugar concentration in energy drinks is much higher: 11 percent for Red Bull, which is equivalent to Coca-Cola Classic. At this concentration, stomach cramps are likely.

So, so sports drinks improve performance more than drinking water?

It's clear that dehydration worsens athletic performance. Research on this dates back to the 1940s.

However, if you're not exercising hard, or sweating profusely, there's no real advantage to consume sports drinks over plain water unless your game or exercise session lasts for

more than an hour. At that point, you will have substantially depleted your stored carbs. Thus, the sugars in sports drinks can be helpful.

But a softball game doesn't require continuous (uninterrupted) effort for an hour or more.

Soccer is similar to softball: both sports involve brief sprints alternating with less intense effort.

A study of professional soccer players shows that sports drinks can be beneficial: One group drank water while the other group drank a carbohydrate-electrolyte drink during a 90-minute match. Immediately after, all players completed several skills tests. The players who consumed the carbohydrate-electrolyte sports drink performed better on these tests (Ostojic SM, et al. 2002).

So, in summary:

During a double-header, a three-hour tennis match, a century bike ride, or a marathon, consider drinking some sports drinks. Select a product that has a carbohydrate concentration no higher than 6 percent. If it gives you stomach cramps, simply dilute it.

For a variety of reasons, I recommend you avoid energy drinks while exercising and playing sports.

Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional and health/fitness coach. He created the web site 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."

Set Bat-Lag Early to Increase Power

By Art Eversole

Senior Softball News Contributor

I know from operating my hitting club in SeaTac, WA, that many senior softball players spend hours upon hours in the gym building enormous muscles. Larger muscles may be beneficial to overall health, but not so much for generating softball Power.

According to some studies, bulk can actually impede bat-speed as quick twitch muscles are trained to move slower, rather than faster.

For the same reasons, many guru hitting instructors are now against using a heavy weighted practice bat. In my estimation, the building of proper swing mechanics is the key to achieving any and all hitting goals.

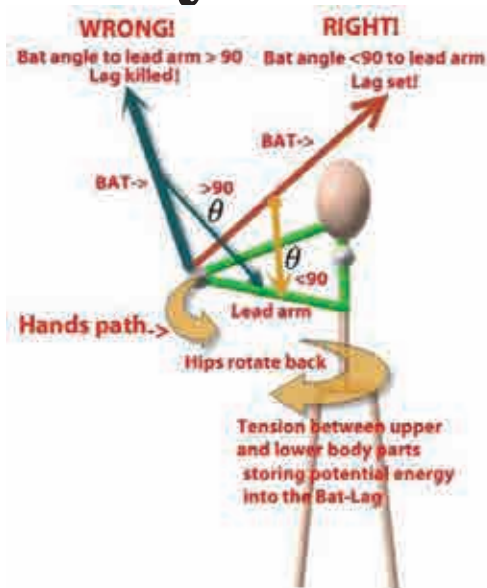
My recommendation to seniors when looking to hit with more power, without bulking up, is to pre-set their bat-lag right at setup. I say this because hitters may be under the false impression that there is lag in their swing, but many are surprised that they are mistaken when looking at their video. You can have some pre-swing movement and then set your bat-lag, but once set, you must maintain it all the way to just before contact.

Bat-lag yields power by delaying stored up energy built up during the pre-swing process. Setting bat-lag during the setup will store up potential energy as you wind your hips and shoulders back, creating tension between upper and lower body that is then released to the swing.

Bat-lag creates power by delaying or lagging the bat barrel behind your hands during the swing, then exploding into the ball at the last moment, as you roll over your wrists. An analogy to this bat-lag method is if you were to visualize slamming an open door shut, versus slowly pushing it closed.

Note that both methods of closing the door cover the exact same distance or displacement of the object door. Both methods also perform the exact same amount of work and accomplish the same task, that of closing the door.

However, the quicker the door is



Stickman diagram showing correct and incorrect way of setting bat-lag

shut, the greater the power that is produced. Therefore, the faster you can move your bat to the ball the greater the impact with the ball.

Let's visit again the benefits of lifting weights versus improving swing mechanics, by looking at the power and work/strength formulas.

Power vs. Strength:

Strength (or Work) = Force x distance the object is moved.

Power is the rate at which Work is done: $P = \text{Work}/\text{Time}$.

So, Power = Force x displacement of the object (i.e. the bat) divided by the Time it takes to perform the action, will have a larger effect on how hard you hit the ball versus Strength.

Note that strength does not have the Time element in its equation. So how quickly you can move the bat to the ball (bat-speed) will result in a higher energy released at impact which is Power.

Included here is a link to a video of Chris Larsen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqpZ4wBNPZk>), a professional softball player, hitting in the Stadium-Power-Tour (i.e. the long-haul bombers) event at Safeco field in Seattle.

This video provides a visual of what I've been discussing in this article. Notice that Chris holds his bat upright at

setup but then sets his bat-lag by tilting the barrel head toward the pitcher. His wrists are fully cocked or loaded before executing his swing, then he maintains his pre-set bat-lag until the hands are released to the ball.

Please take time to inspect the stickman diagram (center image) as it shows the correct and incorrect way to set bat-lag; admitting that my diagram is a bit busy.

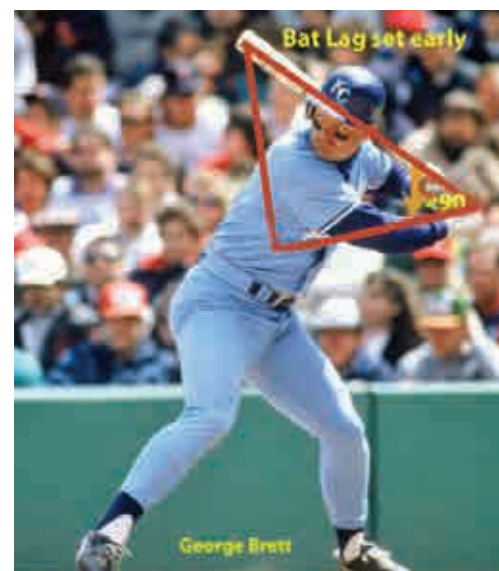
In addition, I've reproduced a photo of a former great MLB hitter George Brett (photo below), from the Kansas City Royals who was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999, on the first ballot. Brett demonstrates what pre-set bat-lag looks like forming a triangle between the bat and lead arm.

Utilizing bat-lag will create greater Power with less effort by letting the bat do most of the work, rather than muscle.

Happy Hitting!

Art Eversole, of Washington, has played on Major and Major Plus teams with W.E. Ruth Realty. He is the NW Senior Softball Webmaster/Softball Communications/Hitting Club Admin/NW Leagues internet coordinator.

Eversole can be reached via email at bashman01@earthlink.net



2018 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

WMC: Over 2,000 Games Played in 15-day Span

Continued From Page 1
Championships, which began in 2012 with 446 teams.

The 2018 WMC saw a player hit a grand slam from each side of the plate in the same game, a wedding on the field, the first senior International Co-Ed games – and the largest divisions in the sport.

Players and teams displayed remarkable sportsmanship, with only two suspensions over 2,018 games across 34 divisions. In fact, the top SSUSA award is for sportsmanship and was awarded to No Dice/Bay Photo Lab 65 Majors from Northern



Kevin Naylor belted a grand slam from each side of the plate in the one game.

California, during the opening ceremonies of the second session.

The WMC has grown every year since, resulting in adding a third weekend two years ago and the expansion of two of the four sessions.

Spanning 15 days, the tournament began with the Men's 55 and 60 age divisions playing Sept. 20-23, continued with the Men's 65 through 85 age divisions playing Sept. 24-27 and the Men's 40 and Women's 40 and 50 age divisions playing Sept. 28-30. The tournament concluded with the Men's 50 age divisions Oct. 4-7.

More than 11,500 players competed in the tournament, representing 47 states (including Washington DC), four Canadian provinces, and the U.S. territory of Guam.

In a tournament first, an international co-ed division was held, with teams representing Germany and Panama, along with two teams from the United States, participating in the four-team division. The co-ed division was played during the third session.

Thirty-five teams would go on to win the World



Monk and Cindy Johnson tie the knot in Las Vegas.

Masters, with California representing the most winners with nine teams. Florida had five winners, while Arizona, Illinois, and Canada, were all well represented with three winners each.

There were a number of usual suspects who hoisted the World Masters trophy in 2018, as MTC 60's/Dudley (CA) – Men's 60 Major Plus, Timberworks/Adidas (CA) – Men's 65 Major Plus, Venom (FL) – Men's 70 Major Plus, Florida

Continued on Page 22



The Perfect Backdrop: Las Vegas draws over 600 teams for the second straight season.

Photo by Jack Eberhard



The Bavarian Royals from Deutschland added a little German flavor to the 2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

North American and International Co-Ed Divisions to Take Shape in 2019

Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – Senior Softball USA has announced the creation of North American and International Co-Ed Divisions following a successful inaugural Co-Ed play at the 2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

“We are partnering with ISA to offer co-ed divisions in some of our U.S. tournaments and we are in the process of expanding co-ed play with Slo-Pitch National in Canada for our North American Division,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director.

SSUSA's first International Co-Ed division competed at the WMC

Continued on Page 24

Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship of the Year Award

Senior Softball - USA annually awards the Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship of the Year at the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

“This award transcends the game itself,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA CEO. “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.”

In 2018, SSUSA honored No Dice/Bay Photo Lab (CA) - Men's 65 Major, during the second session.

“Thank you so much for this award on behalf of everyone on our team,” said Christopher McGriff, manager of No Dice/Bay Photo Lab. “I have always stressed the importance of good sportsmanship with all of our players, and I'm always very pleased when I see someone on our team befriending our opponents and demonstrating kindness and support to others.”

“Congratulations to SSUSA for recognizing the importance of sportsmanship and pointing out to others that this is a quality the organization values above all of the other ways people can excel in sports.”

Continued on Page 24



No Dice/Bay Photo Lab (CA) - Men's 65 Major

WMC: TKP Wins Fifth WMC Title

Continued From Page 20

Investment Properties – Men's 80 Major Plus, Center For Sight (FL) – Men's 85 Major, and TKP 40s (CA) – Women's 40 Major, all repeated as champions.

MTC 60's reign includes a three-peat across two age divisions, as the team won the Men's 55 Major Plus Division at the 2016 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

Timberworks and Venom also extended their championship runs to a three-peat, continuing to dominate their respective age divisions.

The TKP franchise has dominated the Women's 40 Major Division, winning the World Masters Championships in five (2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018) of the seven years since the tournament has moved to Las Vegas.

Overall, sportsmanship was on wide display throughout the tournament, with only two suspensions issued.

The first suspension involved umpire intimidation: A player on the 50 Major Washington Legends, was suspended for extreme unsportsmanlike conduct during and after the 12:30 game at Sunset Park on Oct. 6. During the game, he charged the umpire after he was ejected



TKP 40s captured the Women's 40 Major Title at the WMC for a 5th time in 2018.

and had to be restrained by teammates. After the game, on two occasions, he approached and threatened the umpire.

The umpire, in fear of her safety after the threats, asked to be escorted to her car. The player is suspended for the 2019 season, until the conclusion of the World Masters Championships next October. The player has appealed the suspension. SSUSA is withholding the name of the player pending a ruling from the Appeals Board.

The second suspension involved an underage player. SSUSA received credible information that Miguel Nunez falsified his age and that he was not old enough to compete in the SSUSA 40 Master's program. SSUSA requested he send proof by means of a notarized birth certificate to

our office within 30 days.

Nunez did not respond so he has been suspended for 12 years with no appeal for seven years.

A Mickey Mantle-type performance was seen in seeding play during the second session, in a game between New Jersey Hitmen and Rebels (CA) in the Men's 65 Major Plus Division, when New Jersey Hitmen's Kevin Naylor, 68, blasted a grand slam from each side of the plate in the same game.

"I was fortunate enough to have my teammates load the bases and give me an opportunity to hit for the fences," said Naylor. "I think it was the third inning when I hit the first grand slam right handed. The same situation developed two innings later. The wind had shifted slightly so I decided to hit left handed. I got the perfect pitch to

drive the ball. At first, I didn't think it went out until my teammates started yelling."

"I've always been a switch hitter since my Little League days," stated Naylor. "I let the situation of base runners dictate which side of the plate I'll bat. I have more power right handed, but more placement left handed. I give a lot of credit to my teammates for creating those situations."

The feel-good story of the tournament occurred off the field during the third session, when Cindy Johnson, a player from Dames Got Game (AZ) married Monk Johnson, one of the coaches on the team. The ceremony was performed by Elvis, at the Little White Chapel.

"The story of Monk and I is quite fitting," said Cindy. "We met by chance at a benefit tournament the day before Mother's Day in 2015 at Prospector Park in Apache Junction, Ariz. Monk needed two more ladies to form a team that would help raise money for a colleague/dear friend whose wife had passed suddenly. Although Monk and I had never met, I was contacted by a mutual friend that I had not played with in years to participate, I was more than happy to be a part of it. Upon

Continued on Page 24

SENIORS RULE!

THE NEW 2019

HYPERZ



ENDORSED BY:
RON PARNELL



WMC: Happily Ever After

Continued From Page 22
meeting Monk, little did I know that under the rough, long-bearded exterior was a handsome, funny, VERY charming man. I was smitten the moment he threw a rainbow to first base after beautifully snagging a ground ball at 3rd base, and laughed about it. After a week of texting we had our first date and we both knew we were it for each other."

Following numerous annual trips to Las Vegas for softball tournaments, the couple finally tied the knot this past September.

"Monk and I filled out the marriage license application through our phones at dinner and there was an opening at the Little Vegas Chapel that same evening with Elvis," said Cindy. "We didn't have our kids, but we had the

next best thing, our softball family."

"Our dear friends bought champagne and cake, we also tailgated in the Chapel parking lot afterwards and had our first dance together. It was amazing. Definitely a weekend to remember!"

Cindy would go on to receive another ring that weekend, as Dames Got Game won the Women's 40 AA Division.

To read the full tournament recaps that appeared in the previous newsletters, please click on the below links:

[Session 1](#)

[\(Men's 55-60\)](#)

[Session 2](#)

[\(Men's 65-85\)](#)

[Session 3](#)

[\(Men's 40/Women's 40-50/](#)

[International Co-Ed\)](#)

[Session 4 \(Men's 50\)](#)

All-Time Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship of the Year Winners

Continued From Page 21

The SSUSA Sportsman-ship Award is named after Steve Simmons, an influencer SSUSA National Director, who passed away in 2012.

Below is a list of previous award winners.

2005

Conklin Brothers, CA 40

(West)

Sweet Construction, NJ 50

(East)

2006

River Hawks, CA 80

2007

Roberts Construction, WI 50

2008

Sportaculars of Canada 65

2009

Scrap Iron Club of Colorado

2010

NM High Desert Roadrunners 65

2011

Georgia/Alabama Masters 60

2012

Minnesota Prize 65's

2013

Hannington's 55's, MA

2014

50 Caliber St. Louis Softball Club, MO

2015

Git-R-Done Softball Club, CA

2016

San Antonio Silver Streaks, TX

2017

Guam Seniors 50

Armed Forces Guam

Bud Light Guam

Sindalun Guahan

Guam Women's - FIGO

Islanders

Guam Women's - Team

SOTTA

Guam Women's - Team
Mighty 50's

Co-Ed: USA Blue Wins Inaugural Division

Continued From Page 21

this year, drawing teams from Germany and Panama who played two US co-ed teams.

The SSUSA staff is currently inviting many of the International teams that SSUSA has competed with over the past 30 years in 40 countries.

"We were pleased with the overwhelming response to the co-ed division, which prompted us to expand the program for 2019," said Dowell.

In this year's competition, USA Blue won the inaugural division, posting a perfect 6-0 record (3-0 in seeding and 3-0 in bracket play). The team defeated Panama Police 20-17 in the championship game.

USA Red finished in third place, while Bavarian Royals (Germany) finished in fourth place.

For 2019, the International Co-Ed Division will take place during the fourth and final session of the LVSSA/SSUSA World

Masters Championships, Saturday – Sunday, Oct. 5 – 6.

For more information on the division, please contact Anthony Ramos for the North American Division at Anthony@seniorsoftball.com, or Ross McCulligan for the International Division at Ross@seniorsoftball.com, or by phone at 916-326-5303.



Post-game handshake during the International Co-Ed play at the 2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

World Masters Champs All-Tourney Teams

The top-four finishing teams from the 2018 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships select All-Tournament participants.

All-Tournament selections from the World Masters Championships earn points towards the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NS-SHOF).

Women's 40 Major

TKP (CA): Gina Oliver (Team MVP), Jennifer Stewart, Lisa Bull, Deb Cormier, Kristi Whitcomb, Kimberly Roter.

TST (CA): Marissa Antonius, Katie Volner, Emily Salazar, Josie Ruiz (Team MVP).

Women's 40 AAA

Hawaiian Connection: Brandee Unaite, Kehau Camara, Georgette Panui, Allison Nihei, Anu Kekauoha.

Colorado Ohana: Tyresa Johnson, Tara Thorbin, Kat Chase, Rebekah Ratzell.

Old Nasty Curves (CA): Erin Luke, Glenda Forbing, Melinda Rovetti.

Pro Moves (CA): Rosa Salas, Lisa Maxey, Lori Jarrells (Team MVP).

Women's 40 AA

Dames Got Game (AZ): Cynthia Ellis, Jennifer Tidsbury, Nancy Schoenhofer, Rachel Mast, Irene Bouzanquet.

Women's 50 Platinum

Old School (CA): Sabrina Bobkowski (Team MVP), Deena Dobbins, Diane Dahilig, Patty Felker, Alma Guzman, Brenda Foor.

Stix With Impact (CA): Patti Albrecht, Becky Robertson, Stacy Willis, Patricia Affriseo, Elizabeth Kitlinger.

Arizona Dream Team: Sonya Fultz (Team MVP), Angie Linder, Terry Davis.

LOL-Legit Ol' Ladies (CA): Frances Rojas (Team MVP), Natalie Parsons.

Women's 50 AAA

B.O.O.B.S (CA): Charlene Avila (Team MVP), Tracy Remitz, Kari Zamora, Caroline Saenz, Janet Dial, Jacquelyn Hrabowski.

H-Town Sisters With Bats (TX): Nora Jones, Jennifer Weier, Cad Davis, Irene Willis.

OnFire/Afoa Insurance (CA): Lisa Mobley (Team MVP), Tina Doxtater, Bekki Garcia.

Who's Yer Daddy-50 Shades of Grey (WA): Kelly Adams (Team MVP), Christine Gittings, Shelly Patrick.

Men's 40 Major Plus

Classic Glass/One Nation (CA): Eliseo Aguilar, Bryan Schmidt, John Brown, Tyson Becker (Team MVP).

GTS (WA): Pat Paschal (Team MVP), Chris Hoshaw.

Men's 40 Major

DTA/KJE/SUP (CA): Russ Maltes (Team MVP), Jose Ortiz, Jayson Wisdom, John Freitas, Robert Escalante.

Headbangersports.com (FL): Billy Brescia, Chris Wilson, Matt Butler, Jay Wasalaski.

Wicked Sports/PT Express (CA): Will Taveras, Willie Galaz, Jose Flores.

SBOB/ATHALONZ/VOODOO SPORTS (AZ): Samuel Rodriguez, Vinny Sieckowski, Jenny Valenzuela (Team MVP).

Men's 40 AAA

NMPunishers Dudley/Elite: Aaron Yalch (Team MVP), Billy Nigh, Leonard Juan, Jose Mendoza, Felix Garcia.

Red Eye/RHSK Softball (PA): Shawn Fillman, Jonathan Fink, Robert Marcks.

Shut-D (HI): Jeff Flores,

Benjamin Gomes, Joby Amaral (Team MVP).

Men's 50 Major Plus

Team Kitty/FAI/FBI (FL): Mike Dill, Brad Stillwell, Steve Heller, Co-MVPs' - Reynaldo Gutierrez and Robert O'Brien.

J.K. Inc./Easton (CA): Ronni Salcedo, Johnny Bailey, Dennis Rullie, Matt Suder.

Texas Mavericks: Wayne Garrett (Team MVP), David Feather, Mike Jimenez.

Men's 50 Major

Brian Patten/Mark Thomas Law (PA): George Troupe, Joe Norris, Don Probst, Greg Donophan, Rick Stelton.

OG (CA): Dean Childers (Team MVP), Greg Bovero, Kevin Bourgeois, Joe McCalum.

KC Classics (MO): Ron Ronfeldt (Team MVP), Skip Wiley.

Men's 50 AAA

Arizona Heat: Edwin Soto, Rudy Galvan, Jon Woeslaw, Gary Dahlgren, Greg Fletcher.

ManCave/WorkSteps (TX): Hugh Green, Kenneth Lane, Donnie Kellogg, Danny Griffin, Juan Lopez (Team MVP).

Alaska Kings: Kirk Godfrey, TJ Namen, Jon Dompier.

Chi Town Assault/Titan/T2Auto/DynaMac (IL): Bob Reed, Jeff Burda, Scott Ward (Team MVP).

Men's 50 AA

Gray Ghost (IL): Theron Roberts, Sherman Daniels Jr., Eugene Laird, Charles Oca-cio, Clifford Burnett.

All-In Softball (IL): Deangles Smith, Gregory Blazina, David Alan Schmidt, David Szafranski, John Musto (Team MVP).

Continued On Page



SBOB/ATHALONZ/VOODOO SPORTS (AZ) named Team President Jenny Valenzuela as their MVP. Jenny received a call during the tournament informing her of her father's passing.

WMC: All-Tournament Teams Continued

Continued From Previous Page

Romo's Trouble (TX):

Stephen Powell, Mike Higgins, Jimmy Pena.

ITV Consulting (BC,

Canada): Glen O'Keefe, Brad Debroni.

Men's 55 Major Plus

Sommerville Softball

(CA): Isac Alvidrez, Ronni Salcedo, Danny Arevalos, Robert Robinson, Brian Hausner.

RBC Wealth Management (FL): Jose Armas, Tony Bassett, Richard Clark.

CornerStone (OR): Gary Springer, David Dahilig, Barney Lewis.

Men's 55 Major

Ohio Elite/Creative

Stucco/Louisville Slugger:

Tim Linson (Team MVP), Mark Horn, Kelly Ratcliff, Joe Ausec, Gary Perkins.

WC Thunder (IL): Terry Dunn, Kevin Krahn, James Walsh, Tonny Gilchrist.

So Cal (CA): Dave Barretto, Jeff Iannone, Reggie Stanton, Eric Morrison (Team MVP).

Rock n Legends (TX):

Joey Gillaspay, Steve Veronie.

Men's 55 AAA

Crossfire (TX): Rick

Henderson, Randall Peoples, Kenny Farris, Daniel Brown, Rick Steward, Mike Kinard (Team MVP).

Ameriprise FL Legends:

Danny Van Camp (Team MVP), Dave Leon, Seth Marlieb, Mike Mash.

Fresno Heath (CA):

Craig Heredia, Mark Stegall, Russ Reisinger.

Texas Heat: Derek Harris, Gene Hensarling.

Men's 55 AA

New Mexico Boom-

ers: Harvey Ledesma (Team MVP), Mike Caro, Rey Granillo, Antonio Hernandez,

Tommy Parra, Sammy Perez.

Scrap Iron Mile High

(CO): Jeffrey Wood, Andy Gonzales, Douglas Klimas, James Riley.

Spin Tees (WA): Victor Mercado, Will Henderson, Thomas Dorsey.

Longshoremen (VA):

Billy Williams, Dwayne Williams, Pete Garcia (Team MVP).

Men's 60 Major Plus

MTC 60s/Dudley (CA):

Gary Robertson, Bob Aikman, Dave Matusich, Steven Imlay, Mark Zurilgen.

Summy's (CA): George Robinson, Kevin O'Reilly, Mike O'Donnell, Mike Toomey.

Hollis Appraisals (FL):

George Roberts, Lawrence Reedus, Horace Jefferson.

Texas Crush Sixties:

Reggie Simmons, Murray Williams.

Men's 60 Major

Minnesota Masters/

Ancell: John Reagan, Don Tarasewicz, Steven Bennett, Phil Gutterman.

Sin City Softball (NV):

Brian Graham (Team MVP), Richard Bass, Willie Banks, Mike Swank.

Windy City Softball

(IL): James Cushing, Brian Campbell.

Men's 60 AAA

Chicago Prime (IL):

Rick Kellemen, Dave Smith, Scott Eaton, Martin Lolich, Anthon Davis.

Big Daddy's Donuts

(MO): Phil Loomis, Mike Love.

Men's 60 AA

Team Texas San Anto-

nio: Pete Moreno, Joe Morin, Sergio Angulo, Rayes Estrada, Tom Abrahamson.

Git-R-Done (CA): Tom

Gesler, Mark Moreno, Jan

Schiffmann, Edward Rushing.

Northwest Silver (WA):

Steve Salmon (Team MVP), Butch Jones, Chris Fudenski.

Men's 65 Major Plus

Rebels (CA): Chris

Dayak (Team MVP), Steve Grimm, Art Tressler, Barry Oliver, Rick Cady.

Team Florida: John Lambert (Team MVP), Edward Carrington, Norman Edwards.

Men's 65 Major

Enviro-Vac Marauder

(BC, Canada): Ralph Tipton, Rick Parker, Donald Freund, Peter Sheen, Jim Klassen.

Handeland Flooring

(WI): Michael Baehman, Paul Cox, Lance Riddell, Chuck Skellett.

Carolina Cobras (NC):

Stephen Pierson (Team MVP), Randy Thomas, Danny Ballard, Ron Sandy.

Top Gun Mavericks

(CA): Don Ludwig (Team MVP), Don Chandler.

Men's 65 AAA

Rocco's OTD (AZ):

Joe Simental (Team MVP), Charles Bullard, Angel Lopez, Edward Sanchez.

Sidewinders Desert

(AZ): Robert Hamilton, Larry Adams, Arnie Kvarnberg (Team MVP).

Men's 65 AA

Grey Sox (WA): Timothy Wheatley (Team MVP), Ron Klawitter, Dan Griffith, James Hardenbrook, John Higgins.

Blue Chips (IL): Rob

Jesk, Bruce Van Auken, Dan Kairis, Charles Plonczynski.

Relentless (TX): James Anderson, Louie Caputo Jr., Tom Brownfield.

Duke City Dynamite

(NM): Mike Sinnott, Jim McCormack.

Men's 70 Major Plus

Venom (FL): Vincent

Melograno, Stewart Caster-

line, Clifton Stratton, James Davidson, Bob Schreyer.

Sons of Pitches (CA):

David Taylor, Herman Vaught, Art Langlois, George Anas, Dave Miller (Team MVP).

SoCal Gusto (CA): Ronald Windell, Raymond Fly, Dan Milakovich.

Omen (CA): Peter

Houghton, Michael Baldonado.

Men's 70 Major

Minnesota P5/Ancell:

Douglas Swenson, Richard Kuyath, Paul Trewick, Rick Hoen, Rudy Wicklander.

Nor-Cal STIXX (CA):

Hal Johnson, Bruce Barnes, John Melvin, Lucio Cosare (Team MVP).

Tri-State Diamondbacks

(NM): Roger Assink, Danny Shewcraft.

Men's 70 AAA

Masters Marauders

(BC, Canada): Tad Kokaji, Rich Halliburton, Craig Barraclough, Vern Benn, Dave Schill.

Sacramento Islanders

(CA): Bruce Allen (Team MVP), Richard Edwards, Edward Stoessel, Michael Berlant, Jon Ellison.

MN Lumberjacks: Steven Baker, Richard Majcin, Allan Salverson.

Top Gun Patriots (CA):

Bob Martinez (Team MVP), Larry Revert.

Men's 70 AA

Chicago Hitmen (IL):

Phil Whitman, Michael Sabatino, Steve Gajda, James Kupiec, David Vorwald.

El Paso Nine-Elevens

(TX): Robert Nava, Robert Ward, Mickey Saucedo, Donald Reay.

Triple Play (CA): John

Thompson (Team MVP), Lanny Witt, James Grubb,

Continued on Next Page

WMC: All-Tournament Teams Continued

Continued From Previous Page

Larry Sargent.

Doughboys (NV): Dale Alcorn, JP Molfetta, Ed Wade (Team MVP).

Men's 75 Major Plus

Scrap Iron Legacy (CO): David Smith, Bob Brown, Steve Strommen, Billy Kee, Tom Whelan.

Omen (CA): William Nevis, Richard DeMarco, Joseph Cors, John Di Re.

General Equipment (WA): Fred White, Jay Brack, Claus Nickleberry.

San Francisco Seals (CA): William

Wilson, Robert Hannah.

Men's 75 Major

California Connection: James Kenney (Team MVP), Kenneth Cornelison, Maxwell Litt, Frank Mazzeo, Gene Adams.

State Roofing Systems (CA): Edwin Lowe, Bruce Hyman, Gilbert Jess, Charlie Sherrill.

Findlay Automotive Scorpions (AZ): Troy Singletary (Team MVP), Richard Fink, Tom Lorgan.

Men's 75 AAA

Git-R-Done (CA): Cas Mazet, Russell Coata, Jack Fisher, Dennis Phistry, Gregory Krebs (Team MVP).

Stark St. Pizza S.C.A: Doug Tomlinson, Ross Bickerton, Tom Harwood, Ed Strong (Team MVP).

Arizona Outlaws: Michael Sullivan (Team MVP), Roger Salisbury, Blake Moffat.

Men's 80 Platinum

Florida Investment Properties (Major Plus): Billy Brotherton, Jacob Wood, Thomas Sides, Vinnie Remson, Robert Johnson, John Fournier (Team MVP).

Fairway Ford (CA) (Major): Vincent Duarte, Carroll Shook, John Fisher, John Chacon, Gary Burtzell.

LOTA Softball (AR): Marlyn Schroepfer (Team MVP), Don Harris, Joe Housley.

Top Gun Diamond (CA) (Major): James Shipe, Bob Fisher.

Men's 80 AAA

New York Statesmen: Thomas Ladd, Jim Nugent, Ron Cunningham, John Tortora, Art Barnes.

Sacramento Gold (CA): Ray Newman, Clifford Vierra, Charlie Partin, Roland Stiarwalt.

MN Legends: Lowell Thompson, Earle Anderson, Donald Carruth.

Scrap Iron Gray Berets (CO): Joe DeCristofaro, John Wunderli, Don Notarmuzi.

Men's 85 Major

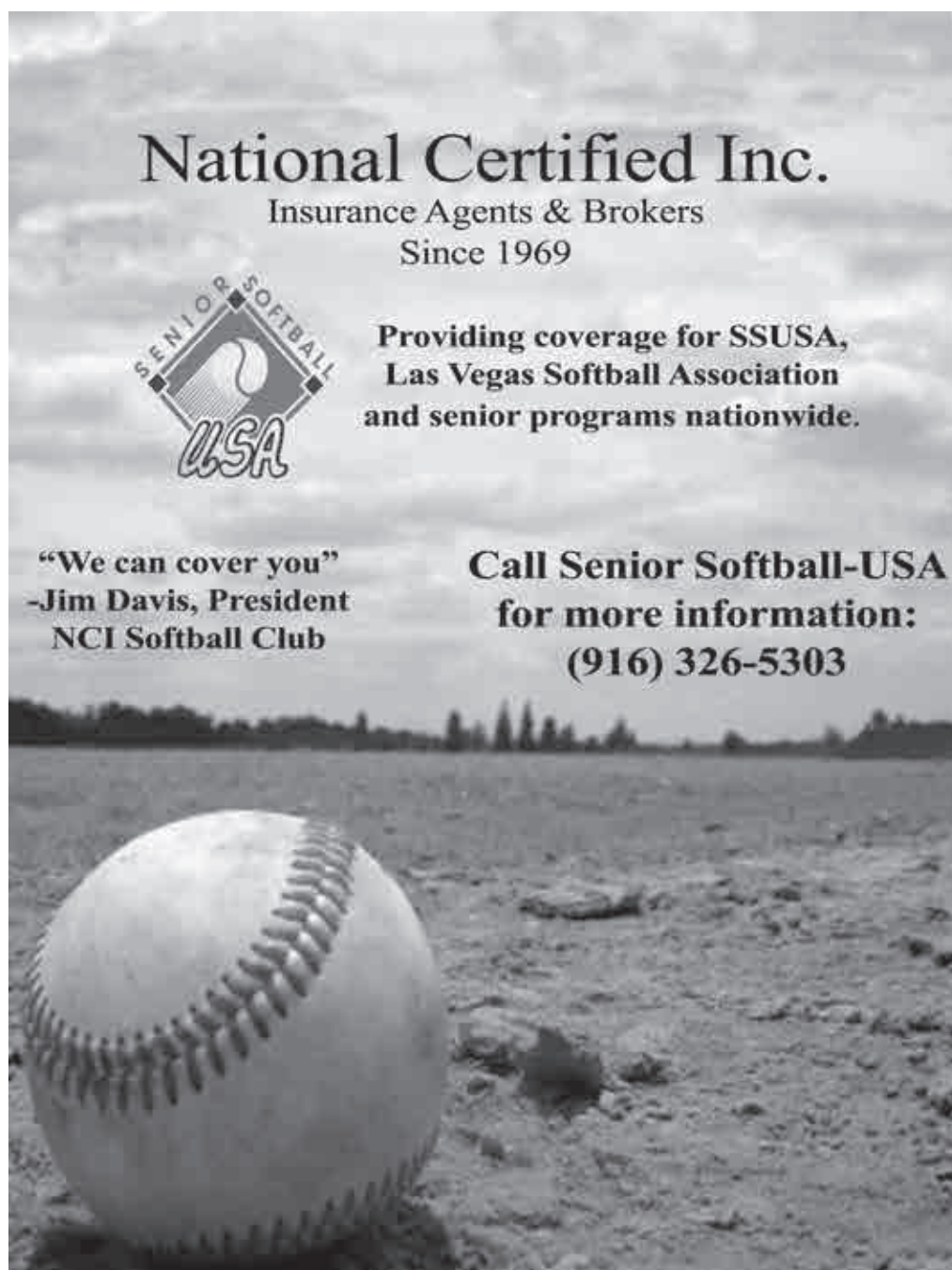
Center For Sight (FL): Tommy Hicks (Team MVP), David Goldberg, Dwight McVicker, Steve Sellinger, Tom Ingham, Joe Sykes.

Arizona Prospectors: Lester Hanson (Team MVP), John Siegfried, Norman Brooks, Jayman Avery.

Southwest Stars (TX): Norman Shugar, John Vaughan, Bill Klinkenberg.

Legends/ProHealth (MN): Roger Schroder, Willie Wood, Robert D'Amadio.

Managers, if your team is not listed, please email your all-tournament selections to anthony@seniorsoftball.com.



National Certified Inc.
Insurance Agents & Brokers
Since 1969

**Providing coverage for SSUSA,
Las Vegas Softball Association
and senior programs nationwide.**

**“We can cover you”
-Jim Davis, President
NCI Softball Club**

**Call Senior Softball-USA
for more information:
(916) 326-5303**



ADIDAS TEAM SPECIAL

SUNCOAST TEAM

MORE INFORMATION
SUNCOASTTEAM@YAHOO.COM | WWW.SENIORLEGEND.COM

DIAMOND SPORTS FOOTWEAR

Rockadia Wide

AC7080

MSRP: \$60



Rockadia

B43684

MSRP: \$60



Turf Hog

G67095

MSRP: \$60



Speed Trainer 3 SL

BW1072 | BW1073

MSRP: \$70



ICON Trainer

BY3300 | BY3301

MSRP: \$75



Vigor Bounce

BW0399 | BB8380

MSRP: \$70



Vigor Bounce

BW0401

MSRP: \$70



Speed Trainer SMU

B4489

MSRP: \$70



2018 Triple Grand Slam Features Repeats

Five teams completed the elusive Triple Grand Slam in 2018, etching their names in SSUSA lore.

Suncoast Adidas (FL) - Men's 40 Major Plus
Sommerville Softball (CA) - Men's 55 Major Plus
Timberworks/Adidas (CA) - Men's 65 Major Plus
Venom (FL) - Men's 70 Major Plus
Old School (CA) - Women's 50 Major

The Triple Grand Slam consists of winning the Western or Eastern National Championship, the U.S. National Championship Game, and the World Masters Championship.

For Timberworks/Adidas and Venom, this marks the second straight Triple Grand Slam title for each team.

Sommerville Softball completes the Triple Grand Slam for the first time as a 55 team, after completing the feat in both 2016 and 2015 as a 50's team.

All-Time Triple Grand Slam Winners

2017

B.O.O.B.'s, CA 40 Women
 Dreamgirlz, VA 50 Women
 J.K. Inc/Miken, CA 50
 Roadhouse Blues/BP & Associates, PA 50
 MTC/Dudley, CA 60
 Omega IT Services, MD 60
 Timberworks/Adidas, CA 65
 New Jersey Hitmen, 65
 Venom, FL 70
 Sacramento Buds, CA 70
 San Francisco Seals, CA 75
 General Equipment, OR 75
 Florida Investment Properties, 80

Redwood City Gold Rush, CA 80

2016

Smack That, CA W 40AAA
 Dreamgirlz, MD W 50
 Sommerville Softball, CA 50
 Hollis Appraisals, FL 60
 San Francisco Seals, CA 75
 Sacramento Gold, CA 80

2015

Kiss Our Stix, CA W 40AAA
 Dreamgirlz, MD W 50
 Sommerville Softball, CA 50
 Summy's, CA 55
 Top Gun III, CA 60
 Omen, CA 70

PDR Fastsigns, OR 75
 San Francisco Seals, CA 75
 Florida Investment Prop. 80

2014

Dreamgirlz, MD 50W
 MBA Elite, CA 60
 Superior Senior Softball, VA 60

Omen, CA 70
 Syracuse Cyclones, NY 70
 Florida Investment Properties 80

Center for Sight, FL 85

2013

Dreamgirlz, MD 50W
 Ohio Silverados, OH 60
 Hamel Builders/Superior, VA 65

San Francisco Seals, CA 75

2012

Omega QSE Construction, MD 55
 W.E. Ruth Realty, WA 60
 Hamel Builders/Turn 2, VA 65
 Syracuse Cyclones, NY 65
 Pinnacle Physical Therapy, AZ 70

Syracuse Cyclones, NY 75
 California Spirit, CA 55W
 California Spirit, CA 60W

2011

Bay State Bombers, MA 55
 MTC Softball Club, CA 60
 Steel Dawgs, OH 60
 Omen Softball, CA 65
 San Francisco Seals, CA 70

Hamel Cavaliers, VA 70
 Triple Play, CA 70

State Roofing Systems, CA 75

Center for Sight, FL 80

2010

Center for Sight, FL 80
 Florida Legends/Human Kinetics 65
 PDR/Fastsigns, OR 70
 Spot Bar & Grille, OR 50

2009

Blaine County Title, ID 60
 CJ & S Express, AZ 50
 Florida Legends/Human Kinetics 65
 Kar Phone/TKP, CA 40W
 Roberts Construction, WI 55
 Sidewinders, AZ 70

2008

2nd Wind, CA 50W
 Back Office Associates, MA 70
 Ca\$h 4 College, NJ 65
 JK, Inc., CA 40
 Joeseppi's/Bellettini, WA 70
 NorCal Bluejays, CA 65
 NY Motion 55

Robson Ranch, AZ 60
 Shawn Montee Timber, ID 50
 Syracuse Merchants, NY 55
 Tiodize D-99, CA 80
 Turn 2, NC 60

2007

All Star Ford Masters, WA 40
 California Spirit 50W
 California Spirit 55W
 Las Vegas Neons, NV 60
 San Francisco Seals, CA 70
 Texas Classics 75
 WE Ruth Realty, WA 65

2006

Ladies Choice CA 50W
 Road Dogs CA 50



WE Ruth WA 55
 Scrap Iron/Worth CO 55
 Moran & Company MI 65

2005

Double Play CA 50
 Scrap Iron CO 60
 Chicago Classics Red IL 50
 Florida Investment Properties 70

Cornwall 75's MI 75

2004

California Spirit 50W
 California Spirit 55W
 Old A's CA 55
 The Farm CA 55
 Bickerton Iron Works CA 60
 Northwest 75's WA 75

2003

Showtime CA 40W
 WE Ruth Realty WA 50
 Fairway Ford CA 65
 Emerald City Masters WA 65
 Dream Team MI 60

West Michigan Sportsmen 65
 Mitchell's Construction PA 70
 Syracuse Cyclones NY 70

2002

California Spirit Majors 55W
 Coca Cola Classics WI 60

2001

SF Seals, CA 65
 Jimmy Dukes, CA 65

DeMARINI

GET
SOME.

DEMARINI.COM

@DEMARINISP

@DEMARINI



PUNISH THE BALL.

2018
LARRY CARTER
SIGNATURE BAT

U.S. National Championship Game Winners

The 2018 LVSSA/SSUS-SA World Masters Championships featured 16 U.S. National Championship games, pitting winners of the Eastern National Championships up against winners of the Western National Championships.

The games were held during seeding play. In divisions of four or more teams, the winning team earned the top seed in bracket play, while the runner-up was seeded second.

Overall, Eastern teams outdid their Western counterparts, holding a 9-7 edge in the 16 games.

U.S. National Champions completed the second leg of the Triple Grand Slam.

2018 U.S. National Championship Game Results

Women's 40 Major

Kryptonite (FL) defeated Wikkd (CA), 16-9

Men's 40 Major Plus

Suncoast Adidas 40s (FL) defeated Prestige/Elite Sports OC (CA), 33-32

Men's 40 Major

MTC 40's (CA) defeated S2S/.40 Cal (FL), 18-14

Men's 40 AAA

Mach One 40's (WA) defeated Live! Casino (MD), 11-7

Men's 50 Major Plus

Suncoast Adidas 50s (FL) defeated Northwest Softball/Worth (WA), 36-27

Men's 50 Major

Lighthouse Lookouts/Athletic Shop (GA) defeated CPD/Ancell 50s (MN), 20-17

Men's 50 AAA

Team 757 (VA) defeated Pacific Coast Alliance (CA), 24-13

Men's 55 Major Plus

Sommerville Softball (CA) defeated RBC Wealth Management (FL), 25-2

Men's 55 AAA

Ameriprise Florida Legends defeated Michael's Automotive Group (OR), 20-16

Men's 55 AA

Longshoremen 55 (VA) defeated Spin Tees (WA), 23-16

Men's 60 Major Plus

Summy's (CA) defeated Holis Appraisals 60 (FL), 19-5

Men's 60 Major

Sin City Softball (NV) defeated Tasty Pizza (MN), 22-21

Men's 60 AAA

Senior Bend Elks (OR) defeated Georgia Alabama Seniors/GAS Softball, 20-17

Men's 65 Major Plus

Timberworks/Adidas (CA) defeated Team Florida, 33-22

Men's 65 Major

Carolina Cobras (NC) defeated No Dice/Bay Photo Lab (CA), 23-9

Men's 70 Major Plus

Venom 70 (FL) defeated Omen 70 (CA), 28-27

Automatic US Champions

The following teams did not have an opponent for the US National Championship game, and thus were automatic

US National Champions for their respective division.

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

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL WITH VSP®

We've partnered with VSP Vision Care to provide members access to affordable, comprehensive coverage through an Individual Vision Plan.

- Low out-of-pocket costs on eye exams, glasses, and contacts
- Personalized care from a VSP network doctor
- Plans start as low as \$17 a month

vspdirect.com/softball/welcome

©2018 Vision Service Plan. All rights reserved.
VSP is a registered trademark, and VSP Individual Vision Plans is a trademark of Vision Service Plan.

vsp individual
vision plans



TRUMP : OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA
BSN SPORTS : OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127

191 Teams Compete in 2018 Winter Worlds

PHOENIX – The 18th Annual Winter World Championships hosted 191 teams representing 21 states and two Canadian provinces here in mid-November.

The tournament began with the Men's 65 through 85 age divisions playing Nov. 13-15.

Beginning with the Men's 65 Major Plus Division, Timberworks/Adidas (CA) swept R & R 65's (CA) in a best two-out-of-three game series. Timberworks cruised to game one win 31-16, before sweeping the series in game two, with a 26-22 victory.

Animals (CA) completed a perfect week to win the six-team Men's 65 Major Division, going 2-0 in seeding play to earn the No. 2 seed, before going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 21-11 win over Rocco's (AZ) in the championship game. Rocco's made a valiant run through the elimination side of the bracket, winning four straight games, en route to their runner-up finish. Top seed Arizona Ancient finished in third place.

In the largest division of the first session, the 17-team

Men's 65 AAA Division, Last Call (NV) played flawless ball, going 2-0 in seeding play to eventually earn the No. 3 seed, before rattling off five straight wins in bracket play, including a 21-10 win over Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO) in the championship game.

Scrap Iron Diamonds bounced back from an 0-2 showing in seeding play, going 4-2 in bracket play en route to their runner-up finish. Both of Scrap Iron Diamonds' losses came against Last Call.

No Guts, No Glory (CA) finished in third place, while OC-Mustangs (CA) finished in fourth place.

Scrap Iron 5280 (CO) and Utah Coyotes rounded out the top six teams.

In the six-team Men's 65/70 AA Division, Los Vatos Viejos 65 (AZ) avenged its 22-20 loss in the championship game against Blue Chips 65 (IL), with a 21-16 victory in the "if" game. New Mexico Boomers 65 finished in third place after winning three straight elimination games. The team entered bracket play as the last seed after going 0-2 in seeding play.

Omen (CA) swept Enviro-

Vac Marauders (BC, Canada) in a best two-out-of-three game series to win the Men's 70 Major Plus Division. Omen took game one 25-13 and game two 16-12 to sweep the series.

After being upset in their first bracket game against Poncho's (AZ) 15-9, top seed Sidewinders (AZ) won five straight games, including double-dipping Poncho's, winning the championship game, 16-15 (walk-off in the bottom of the open) and the "if" game, 16-14, in the six-team Men's 70 Major Division. Trailing 13-11 heading into the top of the open, Sidewinders plated five runs in the inning to eventually hold onto the 16-14 title victory. Midwest Express (IA) finished in third place.

In the eight-team Men's 70 AAA Division, Chicago Strikers entered bracket play as the top seed, following a 2-0 showing in seeding play. The team lived up to its top overall rank, going 4-0 in bracket play to complete an undefeated week, including a 22-21 win over No. 2 seed Git-R-Done (CA) in the championship game. Trailing 21-17 heading into the bottom of the open, Chicago Strikers rallied with a five-run rally to complete the come-back victory for the championship. Bouncing back from an 0-2 record in seeding, Prime Time (CA) posted a 4-2 record in bracket play, including four straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket, en route to their third-place finish.

The four-team Men's 75 Major Division came down to the "if" game, as Sidewinders



(AZ) defeated ProHealth Care (WI), 24-9, in the winner-take-all final. ProHealth Care defeated Sidewinders 14-12 in the championship game to force the "if" game. Findlay Scorpions (AZ) finished in third place.

Arizona Outlaws took home the four-team Men's 75 AAA Division, going 3-0 in seeding play to lock up the top seed, before winning three straight in bracket play, including a 22-3 win over Hui Ohana Warriors (HI) in the championship game. Hui Ohana won back-to-back elimination games after dropping their first bracket game, en route to their runner-up finish. Triple Play (CA) finished in third place.

Emerald 80s (WA) swept Top Gun Gold (CA) by scores of 18-16 and 15-14 to win the Men's 80 Major Division.

In the four-team Men's 80/85 Gold Division, Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80 (CO) came back to defeat Git-R-Done 80 (CA), 24-13, in the "if" game, after dropping the championship game 15-11. Sidewinders 80 (AZ) finished in third place.

The Winter World Championships continued with the Women's 40 through 70 age divisions, as well as the Men's 40 through 60 age divisions, playing Nov. 16-18.

Beginning with the three-team Women's 40 Major Division, **Continued on Next Page**



Chicago Strikers (IL) - Men's 70 AAA Champions



TRUMP : OFFICIAL BALL of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

BSN SPORTS : OFFICIAL SUPPLIER of SENIOR SOFTBALL - USA

bsnsports.com/seniorsoftball
BSN SPORTS • 800-327-0074 EXT.127

WWC: TABU Wins Five Straight Elimination Games

Continued from Previous Page sion, top seed Colorado Ohana breezed through the bracket, defeating Wikkd (CA) 16-4 in the championship game. The victory capped off a perfect weekend for Colorado Ohana. Get Dirty (NM) finished in third place.

In the 10-team Women's 40 AAA Division, TABU (CA) escaped the elimination side of the bracket with three straight wins to reach the championship game. Needing to continue to win out, TABU did just that, double-dipping Tharaldson Softball (NV) 15-9 and 26-25 in the championship and "if" games, respectively.

Trailing for most of the "if" game, TABU tied the game at 20 all with a five-run bottom of the sixth. Heading into the open inning, Tharaldson plated five runs to regain the lead 25-20. It would not be enough; however, as TABU would strike back with a six-run bottom of the open to take the title.

Tharaldson defeated TABU earlier in the bracket, 18-14, to knock the team down into the elimination bracket, setting up the team's gauntlet run of five straight wins on Championship Sunday. Top seed Straight Pride (CA) finished in third place.

Stix With Impact (CA) posted a perfect 3-0 record in bracket play to win the three-team Women's 50 Major Division, including a 15-11 win over Arizona Dream Team in the championship game. LOL-Legit Ol' Ladies (CA) finished in third place.

Playing a best two-out-three game series in the

Women's 50 AAA Division, Motown Magic (MI) outlasted NW Lady Legends (WA). Game one saw Motown Magic strike first, taking the 24-19 win. NW Lady Legends evened the series with a thrilling 20-19 win in game two, forcing the third and decisive game. In the rubber-match, Motown Magic took the home the championship with a 17-9 win.

Top seed Ladies Choice (CA) put on a flawless performance, going 2-0 in seeding play, and 3-0 in bracket play, including a 14-13 win in the championship game against 2nd Wind (CA) in the five-team Women's 60 Division. SkorMor (AZ) finished in third place after winning a pair of games in the elimination side of the bracket.

In the five-team Women's 70 Division, top seed Southwest Dream Catchers (NM) won three straight elimination games, including a double-dip of LV Neons (NV) in the championship game (13-11) and "if" game (19-12). LV Neons defeated Southwest Dream Catchers, 7-1, earlier in the bracket to knock the team down into the elimination side of the bracket. Saints



GTS (WA) - Men's 40 Major Plus Champions

Express (CA) finished in third place.

In the four-team Men's 40 Major Plus Division, top seed GTS (WA) went undefeated, going 3-0 in seeding, before capping off the tournament with a 3-0 record in bracket play, including a 42-39 win over Automatic (NV) in the championship game. Automatic fell to GTS, 34-22, in their first bracket game, before winning back-to-back elimination games to reach the championship. Pony Tail Express (CA) finished in third place.

The largest division of the second session featured the 17-team Men's 40 Major Division. FunHavers (AZ), the No. 2 seed in the bracket,

punched its ticket to the championship game with four straight wins in bracket play.

Their opponent in the championship was a familiar one, as the game featured a rematch of an earlier meeting, that saw FunHavers defeat Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks (AZ), 23-21.

Falling into the elimination bracket, Blue Pill Mafia rattled off three straight wins to secure their spot in the championship game, where the team would avenge its earlier loss with a 30-20 win, forcing the winner-take-all "if" game. However, FunHavers would have the final say, taking the "if" game in walk-off fashion, 14-13.

Homies (AZ) finished in third place, winning three straight one-run games to begin bracket play, before dropping back-to-back games. Bad Seed (CA) finished in fourth place following a three-win run through the elimination side of the bracket.

T's Train/Integra (AZ) also made a strong push through the elimination side of the bracket with three straight wins to be among the



Southwest Dream Catchers (NM) - Women's 70 Champions

Continued on Page 35

A man, Bully Kramer, is standing in front of a large, stylized blue and white 'E' logo. He is wearing a white baseball jersey with blue and white horizontal stripes on the sleeves and the word 'Summit' in blue script across the chest. He is also wearing a blue and white baseball cap, sunglasses, and dark pants. He is holding a baseball bat in his left hand. The background is a blue and white geometric pattern.

Contact: Carlos Vega
714.639.9940 xt. 222

OFFICIAL UNIFORMS
FOR



Bully Kramer
2017 SSUSA HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE

elitesportsusa.net

WWC: Jose Canseco Leads Team to Victory

Continued from Page 33

final six teams remaining on Sunday.

In the four-team Men's 40 AAA Division, Whatever (AZ) posted a perfect 3-0 record in bracket play, including a thrilling 19-18 walk-off win over Joker's Wild (AZ) in the championship game. Big Hawks (AZ) finished in third place.

The nine-team Men's 50 Major Division saw the top two seeds square off for the championship.

Top seed 4 The Fallen (AZ) got to the championship game unscathed, winning three straight games. After dropping their second game of the bracket against Stadium (CA) 19-17, No. 2 seed Thunderstruck fell into the elimination side of the bracket, where the team won three straight win-or-go-home games to reach the championship game.

Fueled by their survive and advance mentality, Thunderstruck edged out an 8-7 win in the championship game for their fourth straight win on Sunday, forcing the "if" game. In the end, Thunderstruck would run out of gas, as 4 The Fallen would take the "if" game, 27-24. Stadium finished in third place.

Top seed Grayed & Confused (UT) registered a perfect weekend, going 2-0 in seeding and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 15-13 win over Elite/Scrap Iron (CO) in the championship game of the 14-team Men's 50 AAA Division. Sin City Warriors (NV) finished in third place.

Elite/Dudley (AZ) outdueled So Cal (CA) in a best two-out-of-three game series for the Men's 55 Major

Plus Division. Elite/Dudley jumped out early to take game one, 47-26; while So Cal evened the series with a 25-24 win in game two. The rubber-match saw Elite/Dudley win the final game, 33-28.

Bouncing back from an 0-2 showing in seeding play, No. 10 seed Vegas Strong (NV), led by former MLB All-Star and MVP Jose Canseco, posted a perfect 5-0 record in bracket play, including a 29-28 win over JU Entertainment (CA) in the championship game in the 11-team Men's 55 Major Division.



(From L to R): Scott Guthrie, manager of Vegas Strong, and Jose Canseco, pose with the WWC championship trophy.

Trailing 22-21 heading into the open inning, Vegas Strong plated eight runs in the top half of the open to go ahead, 29-22. JU Entertainment answered with six runs in the bottom half of the open, as Vegas Strong would hold on for the win.

Following an 18-5 loss against Vegas Strong to begin bracket play, Doerflinger (WA) rattled off five straight wins en route to their third-place finish.

In another 11-team division, the Men's 55 Silver



FunHavers - Men's 40 Major Champions

Division, Arizona Scorpions completed an undefeated weekend, going 2-0 in seeding play and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 31-11 win against Antiques of Iowa City (IA). Top seed Thunderstruck (AZ) finished in third place.

Hawaii Five-O won the seven-team Men's 60 Major Division, as the team posted a perfect 4-0 record in bracket play, including a 23-14 win over top seed Arizona Old School in the championship game. Arizona Old School had previously won four straight games in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game. Northwest Softball Club/Underdogs (WA) finished in third place.

Representing the Great White North in the 14-team Men's 60 AAA Division, top seed X-Men (BC, Canada) went unbeaten, going 2-0 in seeding play, before rolling through bracket play with a 4-0 record, including a 17-15 win over No. 3 seed CJ & S Express (AZ) in the championship game.

After being upset by No. 14 seed Oshkosh Ambassadors (WI), 20-19, in their opening bracket game, CJ & S Express dropped to the elimi-

nation side of the bracket, where the team rallied with six straight victories, including a revenge 28-17 win over Oshkosh Ambassadors in the third-place game, to reach the championship game. Weekend Warriors (CA) finished in fourth place.

Arizona Ballers made a valiant run through the elimination side of the bracket with three straight wins to reach Sunday.

In the nine-team Men's 60 AA Division, top seed Vancouver USA-Wooly's (WA) went 2-0 in seeding play and rolled to the championship game undefeated, until falling just short to Los Vatos Viejos (AZ) 17-16 as the division title would be decided by the "if" game.

Trailing 13-3 heading into the open inning of the "if" game, Los Vatos Viejos mounted an incredible comeback, scoring 13 runs to take a 16-13 lead. Vancouver USA-Wooly's would avoid the dreaded double-dip, coming back with a four-run bottom of the open to take home a 17-16 win of their own.

All-In (IL) finished in third place, rebounding from an 0-2 showing in seeding play.



B20133

MELEE 2 BALANCED



CV8669

MELEE 12" LEGENDS OF THE GAME



B20134

MELEE 2 ENDLOAD



DP5766

MELEE RELOADED

MELEE BAT SPECIAL

\$200 EACH

FOR MOR INFORMATION

CONTACT SUNCOAST TEAM AT SUNCOASTTEAM@YAHOO.COM

www.seniorlegend.com

Winter World Champs All-Tourney Teams

The top three teams from the Winter Worlds selected All-Tournament members.

Women's 40 Major

Colorado Ohana: Jennifer Doolittle, Alyson Morgentern, Tanya Norton, Amy Palma, Tyressa Johnson.

Get Dirty (NM): Jenny Jenkins-Knight, Elizabeth Kuehne, Paulette Baca-Asplund.

Women's 40 AAA

Tharaldson Softball (NV): Joann Fukuma, Rhonda Hilpiper-Maier, Therese Schmidt, Myste Hutton.

Saints (AZ): Melissa Ellis, Kimmie Mars, Ramona Llerenas.

Women's 50 Major

Stix With Impact (CA): Monica Rubio, Jeanette Bailey-Brown, Sheryl Sanchez, Lisa Hill, Shandra Lee.

Arizona Dream Team: Angie Linder, Kim Moore, Sonya Fultz, Cathy Nicodemus.

Women's 50 AAA

Motown Magic (MI): Daena Slagle, Tracey Bell, Mona Onyemelukwe, Lisa Pugh, Laura Mooneyham.

NW Lady Legends (WA): Jenny Langenhorst, Theresa Gotter, Susan Stencil, Karlene Schuler.

Women's 60

SkorMor (AZ): Eleanor Hawley, Nancy Holyoke, Lori Drotman.

Women's 70

Southwest Dream Catchers (NM): Lois Gray, Avis Taylor, Ruth Ann Marshall, Arvita Higgins, Sara Denzler.

LV Neons (NV): Jean Vaughan, Pat Lawlis, Kathleen Hawk, Barbara Lang-Ruzic.

Saints Express (CA): Susan Cary, Lynn Ann Shutt, Nancy Musser.

Men's 40 Major Plus

GTS (WA): Joey Smith, Pat Paschal, Eric Becker, Jason Graves, Russell Buffington.

Men's 40 AAA

Joker's Wild (AZ): Arthur Alejandro II, Kevin Abers, Raymond Lopez, Hector Lepur.

Men's 50 Major

4 The Fallen (AZ): Jamie

McAndrew, Rex Morrison, Jeff Brandhagen, Kenneth McCarthy, Mark Ozolins.

Thunderstruck (AZ):

Thomas Trieber, Randy Pongratz, Steve Sigourney, David Tibbetts.

Stadium (CA): Ed Lujan, Mike Flynn, Andrew Lineberger.

Men's 50 AAA

Elite/Scrap Iron (CO):

Richard Lundy, Jeffrey Wright, Tom Sutak, Ken Lindow.

Men's 55 Major Plus

So Cal 55 (CA): Alan Derow, Darren Howe, Jeff Iannone, Nelson Kracke.

Men's 55 Major

Vegas Strong (NV): Jose Canseco, John Failla, Armando Caban, Tim Ryan, Charles Bilyeu.

Doerflinger (WA): Brett Kreuger, Todd Deck, Kevin Juma.

Men's 55 Silver

Antiques of Iowa City (IA): Jeff Kuepker, Steve Schroeder, Larry Lipcamon, Denny Jenn.

Thunderstruck 55's (AZ): Allen Nelson, William Armijo, Jerry Lowe.

Men's 60 Major

Arizona Old School: Paul Cooley, Ludwig Nordahl, Bill McKnight, Ken Van Keuren.

Men's 60 AAA

CJ & S Express (AZ): Will Lendof, Randy Tompkins, Michael Manna, Dale Ulrich.

Men's 60 AAA

Los Vatos Viejos (AZ): Danny Marquez, William Ong, Fred DeLeon, Frank Aponte.

All-In (IL): David Schmidt, Richard Bowlds, Larry Pelock.

Men's 65 Major Plus

R & R 65's (CA): Armando Corella, Richard Moreno, Richard Markota, Tom Plucinak.

Men's 65 Major

Arizona Ancient: Steve Hilby, John Barresi, Dick Reader.

Men's 65 AAA

Last Call (NV): Steve Malloy, Lowell Moore, Dennis Worley, Bruce Schochat, Mike Sullens.

Scrap Iron Diamonds

(CO): Jim Casswell, Jesus Bencomo, Charlie Powell, Arthur Graebe.

No Guts, No Glory (CA):

Jon Forbes, Bill Ward, Jack Brunschmid.

Men's 65 AA

Los Vatos Viejos (AZ):

Paul Hernandez, Bill Saunders, Bob Sismondo, R. Dean Burrow, Granville Smith.

Men's 70 Major Plus

Omen (CA): James Stapleton, David Briones, Bob Cummings, Ellwin Jobe, Steve Callan, Daniel Walsworth.

Men's 70 Major

Sidewinders (AZ): RJ Ashley, Michael Carroll, Mike Staudt, David Toepel, Doug Tucker.

Midwest Express (IA):

John Kelly, Edward Rastovski, Glenn Soyer.

Men's 70 AAA

Chicago Strikers (IL): Larry Hall, Thomas Vancura, Tony Inzerillo, Terry Van Klavern, Dan Tuftee.

Men's 75 Major

Sidewinders (AZ): Jerry Bianchi, Richard Collins, Billy Kee, Jay Larson, Buster Dickinson.

Findlay Scorpions (AZ):

Richard Gwilt, Tom Lorgan, Troy Singletary.

Men's 75 AAA

Arizona Outlaws: Lenny Mykland, Wayne Poindexter, Will Romano, Robert Sachs, Francis Doering.

Men's 80 Major

Emerald 80s (WA): Doug Spindler, John Anderson, James Hann, Darwin Reynolds, Fred Vanouck.

Men's 80/85 Gold

Scrap Iron Gray Berets (CO): Joseph DeCristofaro, Anthony Elia, Kent Loutensock, C. Bill Purcell, John Wunderli.

Sidewinders 80s (AZ):

Thomas Grubb, Larry Benjamin, Ronald Johnson.

Managers, if your team is not listed, please email your all-tournament selections to anthony@senior-softball.com.

435
656-4757

Magic Stuff.biz
All Natural Healing Balms

P.O. Box 65
St. George, UT
84771

Update Insurance Policies in Event of Disaster

By Jack Sirard

Many, many years ago, my wife's grandmother married a charming retiree who had recently sold his San Francisco-based jewelry business and moved to the countryside.

Being a jeweler, he was very particular about his new custom-built home and detached workshop, nestled among the towering pines. I don't know that he had hand selected each board, but it wouldn't surprise me if he had.

Over the years, my wife's grandparents passed away and her mother inherited the home. Subsequently, her mom had a debilitating stroke and we moved her to a nursing home near us, leaving her brother in the home as a caretaker of the property.

The home sat on a beautiful one-acre tree-lined site overlooking a magnificent canyon filled with wooded properties of oak, pine and manzanita bushes.

Unfortunately, that home was in Paradise, Calif., and like the thousands of other homes in town, it burned to the ground in November, leaving only a fireplace standing tall in the center of the property.

While we lost the family home and all the stuff inside (and there was plenty of stuff), we fared far better than thousands of others who lost family members and/or have no place to go.

We also did a few things right since Mom had her stroke and my wife took charge of her care.

For instance, when we



Photo Credit: Getty Images

Overhead view of damage caused by the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA.

were last in the home a few months ago, we took more than 50 photos of the inside of the home, fearing that we might lose something to a burglar if no one was there watching the property. We opened closet and cupboard doors for photos and displayed a few collections that Mom had, just in case.

It's amazing how much stuff was in the two-bedroom home, but that's what you end up with when three generations keep bringing in new items.

In addition, since my wife is the genealogy expert in the family, she had made numerous copies of old family photos and documents that we shared with the entire family so some of that history is preserved.

The second thing we did as caretakers of Mom's estate, was to review and update her homeowner's insurance policy and to have that mailed to our home, 120 miles away from

Paradise.

In retrospect, I think it's probably a good idea to have a copy of your homeowner's insurance policy as well as a copy of the most recent payment and contact information outside the primary home.

Having that information enabled me to make the call to the insurance company early on and to get an insurance claim filing number.

I'm not certain that individual homeowners in Paradise could have done much to prevent the devastating fire as it roared through the community in minutes, but there are many lessons to be learned that could benefit others.

Since we too live in a heavily wooded area in the Sierra foothills, we're taking time this winter to trim up our trees and removing brush on the backside of our property. Piles of old brush and dead limbs will be cleared up soon.

We've contacted our insurance agent to see exactly

what is and is not covered in the event of a disaster and made updates where we thought we needed added protection.

And while we thought we knew pretty much what's in our home, we now have photo evidence to document it. We're planning on sending copies of all these documents to our son who lives in another state...just in case.

In addition, I think you can learn a lot from those who either survived the fire or those who didn't.

Those life lessons could prove to be invaluable in the future for all of us.

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

WORTH IS BACK IN THE SSUSA GAME

THE WORTH WICKED 1-PIECE SSUSA BAT
UTILIZES A PLAYER-PREFERRED XL ENDLOAD
TO GENERATE HIGHER SWING SPEEDS.

CF100 TECHNOLOGY:

100% CARBON FIBER BARREL
PROVIDES A LIGHTER WEIGHT,
MORE DURABLE BARREL FOR
UNMATCHED PERFORMANCE.

XL LOADING:

A 0.50Z ENDLOAD FOR PLAYERS
SEEKING A MODERATELY
ENDLOADED BAT, OFFERING
MORE MASS IN THE END OF THE
BARREL FOR EXTRA WHIP AND
SMOOTHER FINISHES ON SWINGS.

WORTH.

WWW.WORTHSPORT.COM

TWENTY YEARS OF DOMINATION.

PROUDLY DESIGNED, ENGINEERED AND MANUFACTURED IN THE USA.



Mighty Mike Models

Jason Hendrick

Mike Dill #22

