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Looking ahead

2020 was no home run, but senior softball players rallied and kept playing -- safely. Here's a wrap up of a challenging year and look to a brighter future.

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Photos by Jack Eberhard, Illustration by Susan Ballenger

Heroes Save Life at SSWC

Donnie Hudson and Wendy Smith Earn Sportmanship Award For Thier Actions



Donnie Hudson and Wendy Smith

Softball News Report

Of all the accolades that Senior Softball - USA (SSUSA) annually distributes, the Steve Simmons Memorial Sportsmanship Award means the most. And this year it goes to a player and a spectator who, along with an SSUSA director, helped save an umpire's life.

"This award transcends the game itself," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA

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INSIDE



**2021 ORIGINAL TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (TOC)
SET TO HOST TOP TEAMS FROM 2020 AND 2019
PAGE 7**



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Protocols Help Sport Survive Pandemic

Softball News Report

This pandemic year of epic changes and challenges, of tragic deaths and sheer joy at getting back on the field leaves many of us with some stark memories of 2020 and rich reasons to hope for a better 2021.

It is easy to become weary with the quarantines, rules and restrictions. But we can give thanks that many players were able to compete this year. Consider that some of the major tournaments – the Western and Eastern Nationals, the World Championships, Winter Nationals, Winter Worlds -- and qualifiers in a dozen states were played.

Even more important: Of the 25,000 players competing in the tournaments, less than 50 reported getting COVID-19. Although there were a few serious cases, most were not serious and no deaths were reported from players contracting the virus at SSUSA tournaments.

“We believe that the COVID-19 protocols put into place, including masks and social distancing, helped keep the cases from spreading,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. “These protocols evolved as we learned the most effective ways to implement the safety plans.”

In addition, SSUSA officials said the nature of the outdoor game and the general good health of players helped to keep not only the spread down, but also the severity of the virus for those infected.

At the recent Winter Worlds in Phoenix, which was the last major SSUSA tournament of the year, there



were two cases in a California 70AAA team, and one case each reported in a 75AAA and 60 AAA team. In addition, one director reported testing positive of COVID-19. Fortunately, all are recovering.

Looking ahead to 2021, SSUSA officials are optimistic that the season will be much more normal.

“We are planning for a full slate of tournaments throughout the country in 2021,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. “We are especially happy to be able to bring the Southwest Championships and World Championships back to Las Vegas.” (Please see story on page 12).

One positive effect of the pandemic was to bring the national Senior Softball organizations together for a Senior Summit for the first time in a decade. The organizations drew up a common protocol for holding tournaments during the pandemic, which helped convince many cities and states to open the sport in the summer.

Summit organizations, in addition to SSUSA, included SPA, ISSA, USA Softball, USSSA, NSA, ISA, and LVSSA.

“As each association began holding tournaments, the protocol rapidly evolved,” said Hennessy. “Each association added its own ideas, such as taping off bleachers and moving spectators along the outfield fences. As the protocols evolved, so did the safety of the tournaments and the confidence of tournament directors.”

While SSUSA expects that the protocols will need to be in place through the spring, officials said they hope that by summer things will ease up and allow teams and their families to enjoy a more traditional tournament experience.

The next major tournament planned is the Tournament of Champions at the end of January 2021 in Polk County, Florida. SSUSA officials expect about 100 teams to compete in the premier tournament of the year.

SSUSA officials say they

have received a few requests to cancel the TOC because of recent spikes in the COVID-19 virus.

In response, SSUSA released this response:

“As you know the pandemic creates rapidly changing situations around the country. Our protocols have evolved over the past year and we believe they are effective in minimizing risks for players and spectators.

“Over the past year, with more than 25,000 players competing in tournaments, we have seen few COVID-19 cases and, thankfully, no deaths.

“While there is a real risk, we believe in giving people the information to make an informed decision and providing a place outside where those who chose can play as safely as possible.

“We will, of course, monitor the situation in Florida, but we are still planning on holding the TOC at the end of January in Polk County.”

2021 TOC Features '20 & '19 Champs

Softball News Report

POLK COUNTY, Fla. - The Crown Jewel of Senior Softball, the original Tournament of Champions, enters its 15th year here in 2021 - pitting the best of the best on the softball diamonds.

Due to the current pandemic, the 2021 original Tournament of Champions will have a bit of a different feel to it.

Teams winning ANY qualifier during the shortend 2020 season, not just TOC specific qualifiers, will be invited. The invitations also will be extended to teams that qualified for the TOC in 2019.

Invitations have been emailed to managers. Please contact SSUSA (info@seniorsoftball.com) if your team earned a berth to the 2021 TOC and did not receive an email invitation.

Teams that qualified in 2019 may participate in the 2021 TOC, as long as they have at least six players from their original qualifying team.

2020 roster rules and ages will apply for all teams.

The annual banquet will be for managers and a guest this year. Because of the pandemic, the banquet is limited to 300 people, down from the normal 1,500 person banquet for all teams, players and their families. The reason is the requirement that tables be socially distanced, due to limits on indoor dining.

The SSUSA original Tournament of Champions remains the premier senior softball event of the year with free rings for winners (from Jostens), bats for MVPs, gift bags for managers, and marquee events such as a hitting clinic, skills contests and the All-Star Game!

This year's tournament will be held Jan. 20-24, 2021. Traditionally held annually during the first week of February, the TOC was moved up to avoid conflict with Super Bowl LV, scheduled for Feb. 7 in Tampa.

Special Events

Hitting Clinic

Wednesday, Jan. 20 from 10AM - Noon at Auburndale Softball Complex.

This clinic will give players a chance to warm up and to sharpen their skills before the tournament with some of the best hitters in the sport.

TOC All-Star Game

Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 6 PM at Auburndale Softball Complex.

Each TOC-competing team selects one player to compete in the game. Two TOC managers will be selected for the All-Star teams. The winning team will play in the annual exhibition game against the Louisville Slugger Warriors on Saturday evening.

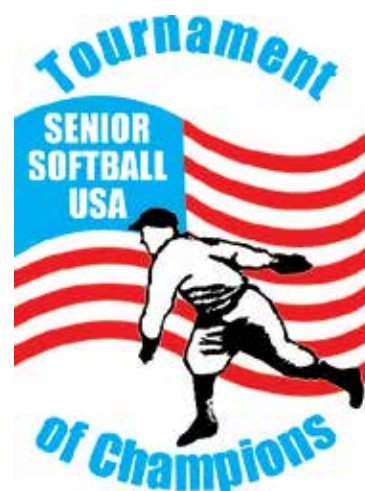
Skills Contests

Thursday, Jan. 21 from 9AM - Noon at Auburndale Softball Complex.

Contests in five divisions (40/50, 60, 70, 80, Women) including: Precision Hitting (winners receive bats), Home Run (winners receive bats), Speed (winners receive shoes), Pitching (winners receive gloves).

Skills contest winners will receive their awards immediately following the contests.

Optional Team Practice



Thursday, Jan. 21, 1:00 PM - 4:00PM

Team managers choose a complex in order of preference. SSUSA will schedule the practices and notify managers of their practice time and location.

TOC Banquet

Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:00PM

RP Funding Center 701 W Lime St. Lakeland, FL 33815

Louisville Slugger Warriors vs. TOC All-Stars Game

Saturday, Jan. 23 7:00PM at Auburndale Softball Complex.

Sportmanship: Quick Action is a Life Saver

Continued from Page 1

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."

Normally given to a team that distributes the above characteristics; this year, two individuals were selected

for their heroic actions at the 2020 Senior Softball World Championships in Arizona.

Donnie Hudson, a member of Stadium (CA), was watching a game involving Lighthouse Lookouts/Athletic Shop (GA). Originally from Alabama, Hudson played with many of the players in the past. As he was watching, SSUSA umpire Tracy Farmer collapsed.

"I was down the left field

line and immediately ran to assist," said Hudson. "Wendy (wife of one of the players on Lighthouse Lookouts) beat me to Mr. Farmer and she was assessing the situation and helping support Tracy's head. (She is awesome). Tracy was having a seizure following his collapse, and Wendy and I rolled him onto his side and ensured his airway was not obstructed."

Farmer was attempting to

breathe and Hudson described Farmer's pulse as "thready".

Hudson continued, "after a minute or so, Tracy fully arrested and stopped breathing, and we completely lost his pulse. It was very obvious to everyone that he had coded and left us. I immediately began CPR on Tracy and after a minute or two, tournament directors showed up with the AED device. Wendy assisted

Continued on Next Page



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Sportmanship: Importance of On-Site AED

Continued from Previous Page

in opening the box and we pulled the adhesive pads out, and applied them to Tracy's chest."

SSUSA Director Mike Hula used the AED to shock Tracy.

Following the shock, a pulse was immediately looked for, but could not be located, so compressions began again.

After only a few seconds, Farmer began moving his head.

"Honestly, it was an unbelievable blessing and a textbook scenario on how it is 'supposed to work' in the field," affirmed Hudson. "Tracy started taking shallow breaths and began regaining consciousness, but he was understandably disoriented. My first question was asking Tracy if he knew who he was, and if he was aware

of what happened. He gave me his name and said that he didn't know what happened, but that his ribs/chest hurt. I let him know that his chest hurt because we likely broke a rib or two doing compressions on him. We continued to monitor Tracy and get his medical history, medications, age, etc., that we were able to give to the paramedics when they arrived, which was only a couple of minutes after he regained consciousness."

Hudson, who had never performed CPR on the softball field, but had formal training as a Level 2/Intermediate Paramedic more than 30 years ago, felt blessed to be in the right place at the right time.

That previous experience in the medical field, along with the compassion that he hopes we all have for one another, is what Hudson said

compelled him to get involved and help Farmer.

"The amazing thing is Tracy called me from the ICU a few days later and thanked me," added Hudson. "I let him know that I didn't do anything that anyone else would have done, and we were just blessed to meet that day at the perfect time. Tracy and I have stayed in touch and honestly, he may have given me a better gift than we gave him. The opportunities we have had to talk and the relationship we have formed has given me a needed perspective on what matters most in life."

Farmer had surgery a few days after his heart attack, before flying back home to Washington, where he is doing well and slowly getting better each day.

"I had a pacemaker defibrillator put in to help keep

this from happening again," said Farmer. "My plans are to be back out umpiring after the first of the year, god willing."

"I appreciate SSUSA checking up on me and I am very glad that the organization is recognizing Bama (Hudson's nickname) and those that worked on me. If not for them, I wouldn't be writing you today. Again thank you so much."

Hudson concluded, "I am so glad that Wendy was there, as she was an amazing asset during this scenario and helped keep the situation under control. Also, thank you SSUSA and the tournament directors that had the foresight to grab the AED and bring it on the field. This game of softball has brought all of us amazing memories and I love that the senior circuit is one big family."

ISA Adds Senior Tournament for 2021

LAKELAND, Fla. – Independent Sports Association (ISA) held a condensed convention here, Dec. 3 – 4.

"We certainly missed having a joint convention with our sister association – SSUSA," said Mike Caldwell, ISA chief executive officer. "We are hoping that things get back to normal, so we can have our 2021 convention with SSUSA in Sacramento."

The marquee event of the convention was the induction of two of the newest members of the ISA Hall of Fame:

- **Stacey Powell** – Player category
 - **Tex Helms** – Umpire Category
- In 2021, ISA will be



Tex Helms & Stacy Powell

inducting Shan McCraw from North Carolina and Alan Shubert from Georgia into its Hall of Fame, both in the player category.

Along with the Hall of Fame inductions, ISA also handed out its annual awards. "ISA changed the ISA Executive Director Award to

honor Jerry Jackson to the ISA Jerry Jackson Award of Excellence," added Caldwell. "It was easy to determine the awards first recipient."

- ISA Jerry Jackson Award of Excellence – **Amy Jackson**
- ISA Director of the Year – **James "JT" Moore**
- ISA Adult Umpire of the Year – **Richard Cope**
- ISA Youth Umpire of the Year – **Joey Gregory**
- ISA Floyd "Pop" Davis Award – **Donald "Breezy" Vaughn**

- ISA Base Burglar Award – **Chris Poduniec**
 - ISA Complex of the Year – **Lincoln Park, Columbus, IN**
 - ISA Southern Region Complex of the Year – **Heritage Point Park, Dalton, GA**
- Congratulations to all award winners.

To go with the annual ISA Senior World Series in Columbus, Ind., ISA will be adding an additional tournament in 2021, the ISA Senior Southern National Championship.

Dates and location will be announced at a later date.

Christmas Gift That Just Keeps On Giving

NOTE: In this most unusual year, I'm departing from my usual column about balls and strikes and rules of the game for a true holiday story that is NOT about softball. This happened a number of years ago and is dedicated to my daughter, Jayme, who convinced me to write it.

Some gifts are memorable – but the best gifts create lifetime stories.

This particular gift came on a Christmas morning in the stall of my barn with the best of intentions.

My daughter Jayme and her soon-to-be-husband Gary wanted to surprise me with a present of goats to keep the weeds down in the back pasture of my five-acre mini-farm in Loomis, Calif. They were visiting from Boston along with Gary's mother and father for the holidays.

The small town of Loomis is an Old-West enclave amid suburban tracts that dominate the areas surrounding Sacramento in Northern California.

The Hennessy mini-farm features huge outcroppings of granite and valley oak trees in the gentle hills that precede the Sierra Nevada mountain range that rises to towering heights to the east. A stream flows through the property into a pond and out again.

The stream was originally a canal dug to move water from the American River to gold digs throughout the foothills. After 150 years, the canal transformed into a real stream, with fish supplanting the gold nuggets.

The back pasture near the pond had grown thick with grass and weeds, and Jayme and Gary had found the per-

Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

fect solution – and Christmas gift – two goats.

They borrowed my old, pristine farm truck to pick up the goats, which were for sale about an hour's drive away in the Sacramento Valley.

The goats were in a small pen, knee-deep in mud and malnourished – which touched my daughter's heart. Jayme had always loved animals – and she grew up with many horses, sheep, goats, cats, dogs, rabbits and chickens and she loved them all (except one mean rooster).

So, they bought the goats and led them to my pickup. No way were they going to put them in the back of the pickup.

They put the muddy goats inside the extended cab and started the drive back to Loomis.

The mud was not the problem.

The goats were males. These male goats attracted female goats by urinating on themselves with a very smelly stream of pee. While there weren't any female goats in the extended cab, these young goats were scared.

Very scared goats also pee. It would not have been bad if they urinated just on themselves, but they had terrible aim. It took roughly two months to get the smell out of the truck.

Still, it was a very nice thought.

On Christmas Day, they brought me up to the barn and there in the stall were two

beautiful little goats (that had been cleaned up) looking at me. They called one Robert E. Lee and the other Ulysses S. Grant. I have no idea why.

A few days later, Jayme and Gary left for Boston and I also departed to spend the rest of the holidays with my son and his family in Norway. We figured the goats had plenty to eat and drink and so we let them out of the barn to explore the pasture and stream.

When I returned 10 days later, my neighbor left a note on the gate to my pasture:

"Your goats are escape artists. They jumped our fence several times and impregnated our goats. We put them in the stall with food and water."

Not sure of what the rules were for goat paternity, I called my neighbor.

"Hum, I'm sorry about the goats jumping into your property....what can I do?"

"Well, you'll need to build a higher fence so that they can't jump in, and I'd suggest you fix them so that they don't want to jump the fence to get at my goats," she said.

She said nothing about paying to support the future little baby goats...and I did not press the issue, nor did I blame her goats for seducing mine.

I called a friend of mine who built fences and within a week he had built a much higher fence. Cost? \$1,500.

Then, I called the vet. She came out and examined the goats and explained to me that because they were no longer kids, the surgery to fix them was more extensive – and more expensive. With few other options, I agreed.



Ulysses S. Grant in the back pasture

Cost? \$850 per goat.

This present, I thought, just keeps on giving.

Everything was fine for almost a year. In that time the goats' horns grew, and grew and grew.

As they grew, they used their horns to push against rocks, each other, trees – and my fence along the road.

Unlike the fence on the neighbor's side, the fence along the road was several times longer. We had built the wood fence 30 years before, when we moved to the property. Now, it was just weak enough for the goats to push it over with their horns.

Time to call my fence friend again. Cost? \$6,000

About this time, one of my softball buddies suggested that we have a goat roast. I told him it was much too expensive per pound.

On the positive side, the goats were always friendly – and they did eat the weeds.

But I do have a new rule: No more presents that breathe.

Terry Hennessy is CEO of SSUSA and can be reached at terryh@seniorsoftball.com.

Rules Committee Caps Champ Game Times

Senior Softball News

During a meeting conducted remotely on Dec. 9, the SSUSA National Rules Committee changed the penalty for erasing batter box lines, expanded the mercy rule to all divisions, made equalizers optional and capped championship games at 80 minutes plus an open inning.

In addition to tweaking two more rules, the committee voted to table several requests involving the number of under-age players allowed on rosters until staff could survey managers of the affected divisions.

"Some of the under-age player recommendations could have a cascading effect on multiple age divisions," Committee Chairwoman Donna McGuire said. "We felt it wise to gather input from managers before proceeding."

Most of those recommendations called for tweaking the number of such players allowed on rosters in the 70+, 80+ or 85+ divisions.

Another player suggested changing age brackets starting at the 70+ level from five-year increments to four-year increments with no under-age players allowed. That would mean divisions of 70+, 74+, 78+, 82+ and possibly 86+.

The committee will revisit these suggestions after getting input on how each potential rule would impact roster-building.

2021 Changes Approved

• **Erasing the batter's box:** A two-step penalty has been implemented for intentionally erasing any portion of

the batter's box. Previously, the act resulted in an ejection. Going forward, it will be an out for the first offense and an inning-ending out for the second offense involving the same team in the same game. If the person who erases the box (such as a manager or a catcher) is not due to bat next, the next batter for that team will be declared out.

• **Mercy rule:** Previously, only Major Plus divisions aged 40+ through 70+ had a mercy rule. That rule remains the same (15 runs after five innings, or 22 runs after four innings). Now, the AA, AAA and Major divisions and older Major Plus divisions will have a mercy rule of 15 runs after five innings or 20 runs after four innings.

• **Equalizers:** Teams once again may waive receipt of an equalizer, which allows them to have a coin flip to determine home team. (Equalizers were mandatory last year.)

• **Championship game times:** For the first time, championship games will have an 80-minute time limit (plus the open inning). The reasoning: Some championship games have lasted more than two hours. With an 80-minute time limit, teams that hustle still should be able to play a full seven innings.

• **Obstruction:** Defenders no longer can block a base legally while waiting on a throw to arrive. Now, to avoid being called for obstruction for impeding a runner legally running the bases, a defender must have possession of the ball or be

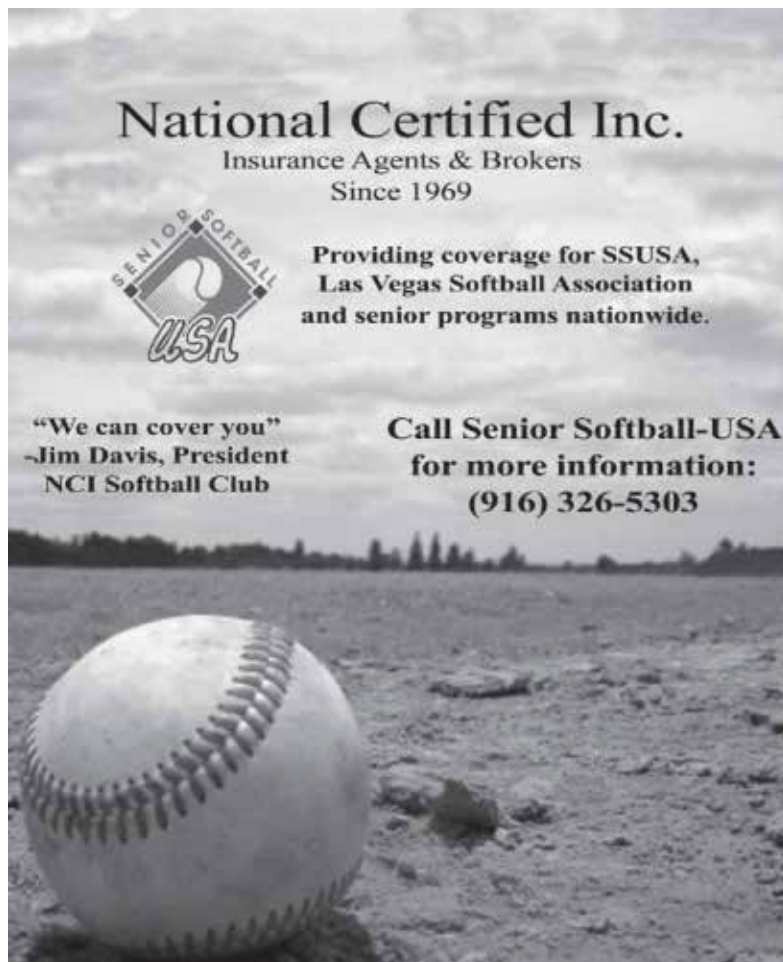
in the act of fielding a batted ball. This should help reduce collisions at the bases.

• **U.S. National Championship games and World Masters seeding:** A little background here: Teams that win their divisions in the Eastern Nationals or Western Nationals earn the right to play for the U.S. National Championship in pool play during the World Masters in Las Vegas. The winner of that game earns the No. 1 seed at the World Masters, and the loser is the No. 2 seed.

However, if an Eastern champion or Western champion had no opponent to play for the National Championship, that team previously had to earn its seeding traditionally during pool play. To

reward teams for playing in and winning the Easterns or Westerns, a team with no opponent for the U.S. National Championship will automatically be seeded No. 2 unless the team earns the No. 1 seed through pool play.

The committee also considered, but did not approve, recommendations for using pitching screens in the 80+ and 85+ divisions; moving the strike zone mat backward; having teams flip a coin for home and visitor in games involving equalizers; tweaking equalizer scoring rules; prohibiting walks in 65+ and older age divisions; and a change to neighboring state rules.



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2021: Full Season of Tournaments Planned

Senior Softball News

SACRAMENTO – Senior Softball USA officials confirmed that two of the largest tournaments in senior softball – the Southwest Championships and the World Championships – will be returning to Las Vegas next year.

“These are two of the premier tournaments of the year – at a great location,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. “We expect the World Championships to attract more than 600 teams in 2021 as the softball world rebounds from the pandemic.”

SSUSA, which has run major tournaments in Las Vegas for the past two decades, has already lined up the fields and sponsorships for 2021, officials said.

Along with the Southwest Championships (April 13 – 18) and Senior Softball World Championships (Sept. 16 – Oct. 3), SSUSA has a full slate on tap for 2021 with the return of many tournaments that were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic.

After missing out in 2020, teams can expect to once again play in the:

- Spring World Championships (St. George, UT); March 16 – 21, 2021
- Tidewater Classic (Virginia Beach, VA); March 24 – 28, 2021
- Atlantic Coast Championships (Raleigh, NC); May 11 – 16, 2021
- Rock ‘n Reno Challenge Cup; May 28 – June 6, 2021
- Northern California State Championships (Sacramento); June 11 – 16, 2021
- Northeast Championships (Syracuse, NY); July 6 – 11, 2021
- Midwest Championships (Rogers, AR); July 13 – 18, 2021
- Rocky Mountain Championships (Aurora, CO); August 20 – 22, 2021

As the ball drops on 2020 and the calendar turns to 2021, SSUSA has number of tournaments for teams to get back on the field.



Leading off will be the Top Gun Winter Classic in Bullhead City, Az., which is scheduled for Jan. 12 – 17.

The Crown Jewel of Senior Softball, the original Tournament of Champions, is scheduled for Jan. 20 – 24 in Polk County, FL. This tournament annually features the best of the best, as only winners of qualifying tournaments are invited.

Other tournaments in the first months of the year include:

- Top Gun Spring Worlds Tune-Up (Feb. 16 – 2021 in Yuma, AZ)
- 40s Gold Glove Tournament (Feb. 20 – 21, 2021 in Phoenix)
- Florida Spring Training (Feb. 25 – 28, 2021 in Ft. Myers, FL)
- Spring Training Classic (Feb. 27 – 28, 2021 in Phoenix)
- 40s Spring Training Classic (March 6 – 7, 2021 in Phoenix)

Be sure to visit the SSUSA Tournament Page for

2021 (<https://seniorsoftball.com/?events>)

A partial tournament listing has been posted, with others to come.

Qualifiers are set to be held in numerous states across the country, including: Arizona, Florida, Utah, Virginia, Kansas, Maryland, Texas, Nevada, Tennessee, Iowa, Indiana, Oklahoma, North Carolina, California, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois, New York, Arkansas, Oregon and Colorado, as well as north of the border in Canada.

Managers, if you haven't done so already, please be sure to log on your manager page on seniorsoftball.com to register your team for the 2021 season, and build your 2021 annual roster.

Players, if you need to renew your membership for 2021, you can do so online, or by calling the SSUSA home office (916-326-5303). If you do not have your account set up to renew online, please email SSUSA at info@seniorsoftball.com.



SSUSA Returns to Vegas in 2021 with Southwest and World Champs.

Fair or Foul: Ball Position is What Counts

Fair ball. Foul ball. Telling the difference seems easy enough. The fair and foul ball definitions in the Senior Softball USA rule book are clear and precise – and mirror ones used throughout baseball and softball.

Yet arguments still arise.

In at least four SSUSA tournament games this past season, players questioned umpire rulings on fly ball plays that happened near outfield foul lines. Each time, players pitched the same mistaken argument.

In addition, this past summer, players involved in a Kansas City 50+ senior league game argued over a foul call on a ball that never traveled far enough to pass a defender. The discussion centered on at what point the sideways spinning, bouncing ball became foul. Believe it or not, a pitcher who has played this game forever got the rule wrong but insisted he was right.

So, I ask: How well do you know the fair/foul rules?

Consider these six cases:

Situation One: An outfielder in fair territory races to catch a fly ball hit down the left-field line. As his glove touches the ball, the fielder's feet are in fair territory, but the ball is over foul territory. The ball glances off his glove and lands several feet away.

Some players contend that if the player was in fair territory when he or she touched the ball, the ball is fair.

Not hardly.

What matters is the ball's position.

As our rule book states: "A batted ball shall be judged according to the relative position of the ball and the foul line, including the foul

Umpire's Corner

By Donna McGuire

pole, and not as to whether the fielder is on fair or foul territory at the time he touches the ball."

This situation is one I mentioned earlier, the fair vs. foul argument I most often hear at tournaments. Too many players mistakenly think the fielder's in-bounds or out-of-bounds position matters, as if we were playing football instead of softball.

Situation Two: A batter hits a smoking line drive that drills a runner standing on third base. Part of the runner's body is in foul territory, part in fair territory.

Some players argue that this should be a fair ball because the runner is touching the base, which is fair. But remember, what matters is the ball's position – either fair or foul -- at the time it contacts the runner. If the ball is over foul territory, the ball is foul. If the ball is over fair territory, the ball is fair.

Situation Three: A batted ball skips hard on the infield in fair territory several feet in front of third base before continuing down the line. When

it touches the ground a second time, about 15 feet behind third base, it hits six inches left of the foul line, clearly in foul territory.

Some players insist this is a foul ball, as it landed foul behind third base.

Not necessarily.

Once the ball touches fair ground in front of the base, the umpire must track the ball's flight path. The key is where the ball is the moment it reaches third base.

If it bounds over any part of the base, even a tiny corner, the ball is considered fair no matter where it lands behind the base. But if the ball curves or drifts foul before reaching the base, and stays foul as it passes the base, the ball is foul.

Situation Four: A batted ball hits the strike zone mat before rolling fair and staying there.

This one is simple. By rule, the ball is fair.

Situation Five: A batted ball hits a few feet in front of the batter and spins backward onto the strike mat. It is touching the rear corner of the mat when the catcher picks it up.

Fair ball.

Yes, it is possible that

the ball may be outside the foul lines at this point. But by SSUSA rule, the entire strike zone mat is considered fair territory.

Situation Six: This brings us back to the Kansas City senior league game.

A batter slices a ball off the end of his bat. The ball arches 10 feet into the air, hits between the pitcher and the first base line and spins hard left. Its giant sideways bounce carries it toward the first base dugout.

Before the ball touches the ground again, the pitcher grabs it and throws to first base. At the time it was caught, the ball was above foul territory but had not touched foul ground.

The pitcher argued to that umpire, and to a new umpire the next week, that such a batted ball should be considered fair until it touches foul ground.

Not hardly. We aren't playing basketball here, folks.

In softball, the ball's position is what counts.

Donna McGuire is SSUSA's Central Region UIC and Chair of the SSUSA National Rules Committee.

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Smith, Yarbrough, Verley Selected for HOF

Softball News Report

Longtime powerhouse player **Mike Smith** of Utah and Southern California pioneer sponsor **Richard Yarbrough** have been elected into the Senior Softball USA Hall of Fame for 2020.

In addition, **Shane Verley** of Washington was selected posthumously in the Director category.

SSUSA directors and umpires in chiefs elected Smith and Yarbrough via online voting, which ended last Friday.

Verley, who died in 2017, was selected by the Executive Board for the honor.

Verley enjoyed a long and distinguished career with Senior Softball USA, both as an accomplished player/manager since 2008 and as the SSUSA's Washington State Director and Northwest Regional Umpire-in-Chief.

Verley served as an accomplished Tournament Director for SSUSA and is best remembered for his very successful annual "Classic Rock at the RAC" event in Lacey, Wash., blending exceptional senior softball with classic rock and roll.

SSUSA's player for 2021, Mike Smith, is no stranger to Hall of Fames.

He has been elected into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame, the Washington, D.C., Metro Hall of Fame, the Florida Legends of Softball Hall of Fame, and he has been on six teams that were elected into softball Hall of Fames.

Smith has been awarded nine MVPs and 25 All Tournament Awards enroot to 102 National or World Championships in his senior softball career. He has played on



Mike Smith

the elite teams in the sport, including the Old A's, Dan Smith Plastering, Capitol X-Ray, Thomas Engineering, REKCO, Turn Two and Ham-mil Superior Softball.

Richard Yarbrough has been a longtime "silent figure" and pioneer of development of Senior Softball in California's Ventura County.

Yarbrough has sponsored senior teams for three decades – and sponsored the fabled "R&R" teams since 2005. More than 500 players have competed on R&R teams. Those teams have won 14 national and regional championships, including two World Championships (2007 in Seattle and 2016 in Las Vegas) and the 2007 Tournament of Champions.

Yarbrough, owner of R&R Pumping of Southern California, elicits loyalty and respect from players...some of whom have been playing on his teams for 20 or more years.

Smith and Yarbrough will be inducted at the SSUSA National Convention in December 2021 in Sacramento.

In addition, three Hall of Fame inductees for 2020 will be inducted at the 2021 convention.



Richard Yarbrough

Because of the pandemic, there was no convention in 2020.

Those 2020 inductees, who were announced after they were elected last year, include:

Don Brooks of Texas in the Director category.

Tom Admundson of Northern California in the Player category.

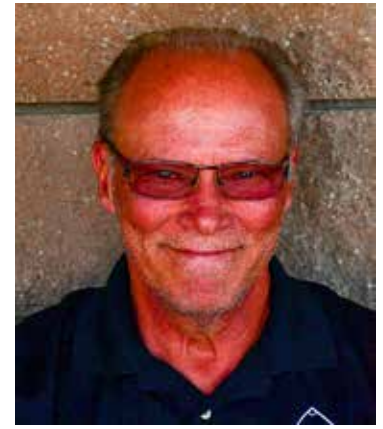
Dave Sommerville of Southern California in the Sponsor category.

In addition, SSUSA honored a number of others with awards for exemplary service in 2020.

The top Association award, the Award of Excellence, went to **Ed Farmer**, the General Manager of Big League Dreams.

"Ed Farmer has been a strong supporter and host of the largest slow-pitch tournament in America for several years," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. "We deeply appreciate his help."

The Executive Director Award went to **Josh Hicks**, Senior Sales and



Shane Verley (1955 - 2017)

Event Supervisor for Central Florida's Polk County Sports Marketing.

"Josh always makes sure everything we need is handled professionally and expeditiously at our most premier and complex tournament of the year – the Tournament of Champions," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. "He makes all of our wishes come true!"

Tom Bussey of Northern California was named the 2020 Director of the Year.

Thom Mikich of Wisconsin was named the 2020 Regional Director of the Year.

Greg Devine of Oregon was named the 2020 Umpire of the Year.

Victory Lane Sports Complex in Phoenix was selected as the 2020 Complex of the Year.

Congratulations to all award winners.



California's Capital is set to host the 2021 SSUSA National Convention

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To Be A Better Hitter, Increase Smash Factor

By Art Eversole
Senior Softball News
Contributor

Have you ever observed other players taking batting practice who seem to have a fair amount of bat-speed, but do not strike the ball with much authority?

You know, those ugly weak top-spin grounders and painful soft under-spin pop-ups that are rally killers.

A powerful strike of the softball must then involve other factors than just swing-speed alone.

I believe the concept of a Smash Factor (a term taken from golf), which is a measurement at the point of collision between the bat and ball, may help us understand this problem.

Smash Factor is defined as the ratio of ball-exit-speed to bat-speed. This ratio yields a numeric value that signifies quantitatively the effectiveness of our bat and ball collision.

Given some reasonable bat-speed, having a high Smash Factor can drive the ball through the infield or all the way to the fence or even over the barrier.

Major Smash Factor components are swing-speed, swing-plane, swing-weight, hitting the ball with the barrel and directly striking the sweet-spot. When optimizing the Smash Factor components, you will maximize the energy transfer from the bat to the ball. Proficient hitters will tend to have an above average Smash Factor value.

Why should Smash Factor matter to senior softballers? Well, as a measurable value it provides proof that quality

ball-striking can override a diminishing bat-head speed as you get older. With a higher Smash Factor, balls will be hit harder and big flies will go farther. So even if it is difficult to increase your bat-speed as you age, you can become a better hitter by boosting your Smash Factor.

Smash Factor = Ball-exit-speed/Bat-Speed.

Laboratory tests of Smash Factor have shown that given the properties of a softball bat and softball, Smash Factor does have an upper limit value at around 1.5. This means that at the very most, you can only expect a batted-ball-speed at the upper end to be no more than 1.5 times bat-speed.

Example: take a Smash Factor value of 1.5 and a bat speed at 70mph. Running the numbers indicates a ball-exit-speed of 105mph at impact. Understand that this 1.5 Smash Factor value is at the upper most limit. For all practical purpose, it is nearly impossible for a hitter to ever reach a 1.5 Smash Factor value.

What is an attainable Smash Factor? Experts indicate somewhere in the range of 1.1 to 1.3. Thus, if your bat speed were to be measured at 74mph and the corresponding ball-exit-speed reached 81mph, your Smash Factor would equal 1.1. At the same bat-speed of 74mph that results in a 95mph ball-exit speed, Smash Factor would equal 1.3. To calculate your Smash Factor value, divide the ball-exit-speed by bat-speed and use a reliable market electronic measuring device for determining your



bat-speed and ball-exit-speed.

Pro softball power hitter Ryan Harvey has been recorded up to 118mph for ball-exit-speed. By plugging in a Smash Factor of 1.2 for Ryan, his bat-speed would be in the 100mph range to attain a 118mph ball-exit-speed. A Smash Factor that is less than 1 indicates bat-speed is actually faster than ball-exit-speed, suggesting an ineffective swing. Missing the sweet-spot (mishits) is the prime culprit for a diminutive Smash Factor.

Summary points:

1. Smash Factor is a useful measurement that indicates how efficient your swing is,
2. Smash Factor is a relationship-ratio between batted-ball-speed & bat-speed,
3. Swing efficiency components are bat-speed, swing-plane, swing-weight, and sweet-spot,
4. The more efficient your contact, the higher your Smash Factor,
5. Attaining a good Smash

Factor is about minimizing your mishits,

6. The higher your Smash Factor the harder your hits will be and the farther they will travel,

7. A hot SSUSA sanctioned senior bat also increases Smash Factor (barrel trampoline effect),

8. A good Smash Factor lies between 1.1 and 1.3, if less than 1.0 you need to improve your swing efficiency,

Smash Factor is a key performance gauge when increasing your hard-hit balls that whistle through the infield, or fly balls that carry over the heads of outfielders.

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 rtmyboy01@gmail.com.



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Senior Softball 2021 Gifts

Softball players – and their families – are always looking for the perfect gift: preferably one that helps the player improve his or her game. We asked our sponsors for their ideas. Here are some of their top ideas for 2021.



■ Elite Training Speed Softball Turf (Grey) Shoe
2021 Elite Training Speed Turf features grip traction technology gives the turf a minimalistic profile so it runs like a cleat, but feels like cross-trainer.

■ Elite 2021 Bat
Elite 2021 Onyx BL29 Sports Endload Senior Softball Bat

Features:

- 2 Piece Construction
- Endload Swing Weight.
- 13 inch barrel
- Approved for SSUSA, ISA
- 6 Month Warranty



■ Dudley Deals
Happy Holidays from Dudley and SSUSA! Whether you want the short or long barrel HOTW senior softball bat or any other product on Dudleysports.com, celebrate the holiday season and use this 20% off Coupon Code “DUDSSUSA20” from now until 12/31/20 for 20% off all Dudley bats, balls, bags and other equipment.



■ Suncoast Diamond Bat
Suncoast is coming out with two new Melee bats this year: the 12-inch and 13-inch barrel Diamond bats. They’ve been engineered with smaller handle diameters to maximize barrel whip. The new tackified barrel “grips” the ball, spinning the ball faster for maximum distance.



■ Easton Bat and Bag
Easton’s 2020 Empire Senior Softball Signature series bats are constructed with a triple wall design delivering explosive POP from the first swing. The Ron Salcedo model is a 2 piece composite featuring a 12.75” barrel and optimized Loaded weighting. The stiff Carbon Zero handle minimizes vibrations at point of contact.

Easton’s ultimate and ultra-durable wheeled equipment wheeled bag, the Tank Pro Wheeled Bag. Built with a two-piece molded base and back panel, this construction provides stability, protection and allows the bag to stand upright. The Tank Pro also features a padded bat compartment that can store up to 6 bats, long lasting YKK zippers throughout the spacious main compartments and a large main compartment opening is perfect for easy gear access.



■ Miken’s Patriot
This is the first 12-inch barrel bat from Miken. It features Triple Matrix Core technology, that increases Miken’s aerospace grade material by 5%, maximizing both performance and durability. The bat also features a Flex 2 Power handle, which is designed to maximize overall speed of the bat head through the hitting zone.



New Bat Standard Takes Effect for 2021

Senior Softball News

Senior Softball players began seeing a new bat-test logo this year on bats produced after July 1, 2020.

The new NTS logo reflects a bat test based on the 1.21 bpf standard and developed in coordination with NTS Chesapeake Testing Lab

and several senior bat manufacturers.

Bats with the 1.21 bpf stamp will be grandfathered in for senior play.

The new standard was developed after Dr. Richard Brandt, whose lab performed the 1.21 bpf test retired. The new standard takes into ac-

count bat performance after a bat has been used.

All bats produced after July 1, 2020 are required to be tested at the new lab and will bear the new stamp.

For more information on NTS and athletic equipment testing, please visit their website, [CLICK HERE](#).



Senior Softball Shorts On and Off The Field

My recent annual medical exam began as always with a nurses' aide taking my vital signs, including height and weight. With my back turned to the ruler I couldn't see what she recorded my height as, so I had to ask her, with the reply being 5 feet 9 inches.

When I got my driver's license, age 18, I was a half inch shy of 6 feet.

She then did a brief mental assessment interview, and as part of that she asked if I ever suffer from depression. My answer was, "Yes, I was depressed about 5 minutes ago when you told me I was 5-foot-9."

And I bet I'm not the only senior softball player who is depressed.

Defensive Eating

My softball friends from Buffalo- the MOGS (Mostly Old Guys) and I have been going to the Ft Lauderdale area every spring to play ball since 1990. In earlier times if we all went to a restaurant together we shared the bill equally. This was mostly for the convenience of the restaurant, but it soon led certain guys to develop an unusual hunger and thirst. The light eaters realized they had better

Senior Moments

By Dave Weinman

not scrimp on their own order as they were helping someone else pay for their lobster and martini. It came to be known as defensive eating.

My favorite defensive eating story took place at Jaxson's Ice Cream in Dania, Fla., an old-fashioned place that serves massive servings of homemade ice cream.

And they have food.

One of our power hitters, Steve C, his full identity can't be divulged for his protection, started with what they call the Artillery Dog.

This is a foot and a half-long dog that is about twice as thick as a normal dog. It's served on a loaf of bread and covered in chili. On top of this he had two cheeseburgers, one on either end of the dog. Of course, French fries and cole slaw accompanied it.

When the waitress brought it out, we all made a bit of a commotion, and it just happened that there was basically a busload of Asian tourists at the adjacent table.

They saw Steve's gigantic Artillery Dog/ 2 cheeseburger creation and started screaming



The Infamous Artillery Dog

like they saw a unicorn. All the cell phone cameras came out and it took a couple of minutes for them to settle and go back to their table. I hear Steve is now a celebrity over there.

By the way he had ice cream, too.

One Last MOGS Story

At our tournament in Pompano Beach this past March, on the final day the MOGS had two games to play and would win the tournament if we won both.

Unfortunately, in the first game we started slow, and as we came to bat before the fifth inning, one of the fellas brought the team in to a huddle. He gave a little pep

talk for everyone to get the bats going, then we all put our hands in the center and did a "1-2-3 MOGS" cheer.

We followed that up with a foul out, a ground out to the pitcher, and a pop up in the infield. 1-2-3, just as we asked for, I guess.

And it STILL beats working.

Friends: Stay well and enjoy every second when you can be on a ballfield. Even the failures can make a nice memory.

David Weinman, of New York, is a contributor to SSUSA News. A member of SSUSA since 2010, Weinman has attended numerous SSUSA International Tours.



Beneficial Effects on Health From Sweating

By Stan Reents, PharmD
Senior Softball News
Contributor

Sweating, particularly if it's heavy, is almost always viewed as being potentially harmful.

Either it can impair athletic performance, or, worse, it might lead to heat stroke.

Sweating is not a health risk unless one, or both, of the following also occur: (a) water and electrolyte losses are extensive and not replaced properly, or (b) other factors exist that affect the sweating response or temperature regulation.

Examples of other factors include wearing a sweat suit to intensify the response, or, taking certain types of drugs.

In lieu of scenarios like that, sweating is not inherently harmful.

But, can it actually be beneficial? Here, the answer is yes!

To investigate it, sweating must be induced without making subjects exercise, as is typically done with a treadmill

or an exercise bike.

One simple way is to use a sauna. Sauna bathing has been popular in Finland for thousands of years. So, much of the research on sauna use comes from there.

In the past several years, Finnish researchers have published over a dozen evaluations of the health benefits of sauna bathing as part of the Kuopio Ischaemic Heart Disease Study. They compared people who used a sauna four to seven times a week (frequent users) to those who only did that once per week (infrequent users). Subjects were followed for more than 20 years.

Here's what they found:
Beneficial effects on cardiovascular health

- Hypertension: More than 1,600 men, ages 42 to 60 years and without hypertension at the beginning of the analysis, were monitored. After accounting for a variety of health variables, including aerobic fitness, frequent sauna users had a 47% lower risk of

developing hypertension.

- Stroke: Hypertension increases the risk of stroke, so, next, the researchers looked at that. Here, men and women ages 53-74 years were studied. Frequent sauna users had a dramatic 62% lower risk for stroke. Again, this was independent of how much the subjects exercised.

- Fatal cardiovascular events: Except for people with unstable angina, sauna bathing is safe. In fact, frequent sauna users had a 63% reduction in deaths due to cardiovascular causes.

Beneficial effects on brain health

- Dementia: Perhaps most surprising was the impact of sauna bathing on dementia: Regular sauna users had a 66% lower risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Beneficial effects on respiratory health

The air temperature inside a sauna can approach 200 degrees F and the humidity is only about 10-20%. So, is

sauna bathing detrimental to the respiratory system?

Apparently not.

Though the research is limited, using a sauna has been shown to improve lung function in patients with COPD, in patients with asthma, and reduce the risk of pneumonia.

While some may regard a sauna only as a source of pleasure and relaxation, research clearly shows that it offers health benefits, too. With gyms closing, games and tournaments being cancelled, and the weather getting colder, using a sauna regularly is worth considering.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: See the review in the August 2018 issue of Mayo Clinic Proceedings by Jani Laukkanen, MD, PhD.

Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional, a health/fitness coach, and author of "Sport and Exercise Pharmacology." He created the website www.AthleteInMe.com®, a resource on the health benefits of exercise.

SSUSA Office Closed

The Senior Softball USA office is closed until Jan. 1 under orders from the California governor's office because of a spike of COVID hospitalizations in the state. Staff will be checking info@seniorsoftball.com and periodically checking phone messages during this time.



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Opinions & Letters

Hope For The Future

Terry Hennessy
Editor

The best time to reach for hope is in the dregs of despair.

Just when things look particularly gloomy, it's the perfect time to search for whatever bit of happiness that brings a small smile to your face.

So, now is the time to think of next softball season – getting back on the field with your friends and the sunshine warming your face as you pop your hand into your glove and get in position.

This has been a year of

hardship and tragedy for many.

While we need to recognize that pain and loss and offer comfort to those who have suffered both in health and finances, the strength of our spirit is based in hope for the future.

That hope allows us to dream of a better time – and to make plans to achieve our dreams.

In this Holiday Season, we here at Senior Softball USA wish all of you a wonderful and safe 2021 and may you see your dreams come true.



Sue Ballenger

ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Following a three-month shutdown of Spring tournament play due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SSUSA had a busy Summer with seven (7) marquee TOC qualifiers held throughout the country, to close out the 2020 season.

SSUSA is already in full swing for the 2021 season, with the annual Winter National and Winter World Championships held last month, in November.

The top three finishers of TOC qualifiers earn All-Tournament selections. (Five for first place, four for second place, and three for third place).

Congratulations to the following All-Tournament selections on their stellar play.

Managers, if your All-Tournament selections are missing; please email in your honorees to info@seniorsoftball.com.

Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships

Men's 65 Major

Last Call (NV): Dan Kibble, Bryan Lowry, Mike Sullens.

Men's 65 AAA

Grey Sox (WA): Allen Arnold, Ron Klawitter, Jack Parker, Randy Willis, Timothy Wheatley.

Men's 70/75 Gold

Scrap Iron 5280' 70 (CO): Patrick McGuigan, Mark Soloway, Jerry Bost, Edward Clark, Randy Huls.

General Equipment 75 (OR): Danny Miles, Claus Nickleberry, Mike Alley, Gerald Bergquist.

Silver City Brewers 75 (WA): Gary Gantz, Daryl Smiley, William Nelson.

Men's 50 AAA

All-Quip/Joe's Bar & Grill/SOWC (OR): Jeff Hodge, Steve Strong, Scott Helstowski, Davis J. Hill-



Continued on Page 24

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Lawrence Reedus #7

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Signature Model: Roberto Minaya / Lawrence Reedus
Available Sizes: 34" / 25.5oz, 26.5oz, 27.5oz, 28.5oz, 29.5oz
Warranty: None

MELEE DIAMOND SMDSB MODEL

Barrel Type: 13" Barrel, Balanced, Two-Piece Design
Signature Model: Rhodney Donaldson / Curtis "Wolf" Wilson
Available Sizes: 34" / 25oz, 26oz, 27oz, 28oz, 29oz, 30oz
Warranty: None

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TECHNOLOGY FEATURES

- ✓ **Max Speed Handle**
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Aerospace-Grade Carbon Fiber combined with Suncoast's proprietary manufacturing process results in max performance and durability, hit after hit.

SUNCOAST
SOFTBALL

ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Continued from Page 22

house, Les Charter.

Men's 55 Major

Arizona Old School: Gino Fiasche, Greg Colyar, James Ketterling, Thomas Trieber.

Men's 55 AAA

Michael's Automotive Group (WA): Greg Torell, Todd Arndt, Kevin Devine, Mark Allen Ayres, Samuel Tinned.

Stars & Stripes (OR): Kent Effinger, C. Mike Jones, Willis Bryan McCollum, Jeff Nehler.

Men's 55 AA

Spin Tees (WA): Steve Zacharczyk, Mariano Benavides, Nick Rogich, Sherman Davis, Kevin Johnson.

Men's 60/65 Platinum

Timberworks/Adidas 65 (CA): Rick Littlejohn, Ron Barnhart, Paul Ortiz, Dane Barriault.

Men's 60 AAA

Yeahoos (WA): Jim Pierce, Alvin Sato, Terry Graham, David Leake, Randy Willis.

Trachsel Auto Body (OR): Chris Smith, Woodrow William Statler, Gerhard Greve.

Men's 60 AA

Scrap Iron Rockies (CO): Tony Cooper, Jay Yoakum, Joseph Hernandez, Dennis Bret, Rey Granillo.

Tri City Legends (WA): Rob Green, Jeff Jensen, Roger Ingram.

Eastern National Championships

Women's 40 Gold

Firestyx (NJ): Carol Rakich, Lisa Brubaker, Cary Outland, Dawn McGrath, Nicole Palakovic.

Kryptonite Miken/Worth (FL): Colleen Smith, Carolyn Deeb, Shannon Davis, Corie Burnett.

Women's 50 Gold

Unfazed (VA): Nedra Barnard-Hill, Melissa Spencer, Natalie Green, Doloris Paterson, Lisa Harvey.

Men's 50 Major

CPD/Ancell (MN): Darin Holman, Steve Schultz, Scott Bakkum.

Men's 55/60 Platinum

Ameriprise FL Legends 55: Steven Fowler, Juan Acosta, Doug Schram, Kurt Musial, Danny Caceres.

Omega IT Services, LLC 60 (MD): Robert (Billy) Hudson, Antonio Foster, Horace Jefferson, Charles Clarke.

Men's 60 Major

Chicago Prime (IL): Dave Smith, Jeffrey Horn, Richard DeLay, Murray Richards, Lovelle Johnkin.

Olympian Athletics (PA): Roger Jennings, James P. Daley, Mike Keenan, Douglas Hartzok.

Men's 60 Silver

High Street Bucs (MD): William Redman, Bill Ardito, Darryle Hall. Tom Kaufman, Robert Woody.

Curtis Engine (MD): Terence Cook, Paul Koch, Mike Herald.

ISA Senior World Series

Men's 50 Major

50 Degrees (MO): Timothy Saunders, Rodney Lofton, Lamont Griffin

Big Hurt Softball/Draft Picks (IL): Bob Masulis, Thomas Mateja.

Men's 50 AAA

615 Senior Softball (TN): James Holland (Team MVP), Jim Taylor, William (Gary) Stiles, Doug Halas, David Munroe, Brad McKenzie.

Lowe Legends (OH): James Lowe, Andy Dyer, Gary Lecker, Bryce Tuohy, Jeffrey Poppe.

Men's 55 AAA

CPOA Cleveland/Northern Ohio Printing: Gary Chmielewski (Team MVP), Dave Scotton, Michael Vaselaney, Raymond Konik, John Saunders, Sean Regan.



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ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Continued from Page 24

Men's 60 Major Plus

Texas Crush Sixties: Mark Henson (Team MVP), Murray Williams, John Roach, Frank Vivier, Mike Garibay, Martin Rodriguez, David Velazquez.

Men's 60 Major

Clean Planet (MI): Reginald Marlow Miller, Kevin Schlutt, Carl Underwood.

Louisville Senior Sluggers (KY): Robert Hauke, Keith Springer.

Men's 60 AAA

Champaign Softball (IL): Jeff Lauchner (Team MVP), Donald Remley, Rodney Schweighart, Rod Chambers, James Kappler.

Men's 65 AAA

(By) Grace Redeemed (TN): Robert Walker, Joe Parton, Frank Allen.

Western National Championships

Women's 50 Major

Old School (CA): Deena Dobbins, Joann Hester, Diane Dahilig, Vicki Cescato, Alma Guzman.

Takin' Chances (CA): Lisa Mobley Silveira, Penny Durgan, Theresa Gotter, Alison Apodaca.

Women's 50 AAA

Old Nasty Curves (CA): Kelly Gollan, Gina Araujo, Christina Jones, Melinda Rovetti, Michell Serna.

Men's 50 Platinum

Battleborn NV/Asurea: Elbert Certeza, Rickey Garza, Brian Williford, Dallas Kester, Tim Williamson.

Men's 55 Major Plus

San Antonio Softball Club (TX): Patrick Rea, Chuck Henninger, Tommy Clark, Bobby Gilbert, R. David Feather.

Men's 55 Major

WPI/Wilson Auto (ID): Chris Jones, Ronald Love, Mark Haggerty, Gregg Pruett, Tony Holtz.

Lynden Precast (WA): Steve Dzubay, Dwight Orr, Kevin Juma.

Men's 55 AAA

Michael's Automotive Group (WA): Mark Ayres, Jerry Herrington, Samuel Tinned, Gary Goodin, Michael Means.

Men's 50/55 AA

Team Panthers 50 (UT): Dan Greenberg, Mitch Walkington, Joe Martinez, Tony Owen, Thomas Dyckman Jr.

Spin Tees 55 (WA): Chistopher Fudenski, Mariano Benavides, Bill Jones, Kevin Johnson, Grant Brown

Men's 60 Major Plus

LPC/Dudley (CA): Gary Robertson, Paul Salow, David Matusich, Thad Reece, Michael Slavenski.

Samurai (CA): Mark Toma, James (Mike) Karr, Russell Kester, Henry Underwood.

Men's 60 Major

Vegas Elite (NV): Mike Stater, Reggie Stanton, Dave Barretto, Brian Graham, Freddie Cantrell Jr.

Men's 60 AAA

Sidewinders (AZ): Edwin Soto, Mike Braman, Randy Tompkins, Peter Dellios, Will Lendof.

Yeahoos (WA): Jim Pierce, Dana Senecal, David Fukumoto,

Men's 60 AA

Full Throttle (AZ): Lyman Thompson, Victor Johnson, S. Taylor Branch, Rob Scott, John Corcoran.

Texas Legends: Mike McClanahan, Wade Moran, Shawn McKenzie, John Christopher.

Men's 65/70 Platinum

OMEN 70 (CA): Doak Whitley, Wayne Ross, Ludwig Nordahl, Bob Cummings, Peter Houghton.

Men's 70 AAA

Scrap Iron 5280 (CO): Jerry Bost, Edward Clark, Mike Edwards, Patrick McGuigan, Terry Goodrich.

Men's 70 AA

Franklin Loan Center (CA): Chuck Anderson, Bill Leitch, Thomas Salinas, Gabriel Salas, Robert Thomas.



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ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Continued from Page 26

Men's 75 Platinum

OMEN (CA): Tommy Avery, William Wilson, Gil Frelly, Dale McLaughlin.

Men's 75 AAA

Git-R-Done (CA): Gregg Archer, Bryan Wilkins, Donnie Sternberger.

Men's 80 Platinum

Top Gun Gold (CA): Jack Scott, Gene Adams, Jesus Godoy, Al Grefsheim.

Men's 80 AAA

Git-R-Done (CA): Michael Walter, Jay Quimby, Marv Rueck, Ronald Mattila, Daryl Idler.

Northern Championships

Men's 65 Gold

Motown Stars (MI): William Koleszar, Grant St. Amour, Kenneth Stuemke, Floyd Ellis, Willie Hall.

Men's 65 AA

Shannon Fence/CPOA (OH): Mike Terelle, Gregory Sulak, Jim Bolino, Donnie Armstrong.

Men's 70/75 AAA

Mid-State Seniors 70 (IL): Steve Jones, Rick Rusk, Richard Riggs, Larry Sample, William Beyer.
Chicago Gray Sox 75 (IL): Ron Geary, Stephen Garceau, John (Jack) Zuzak, Wayne Markett.

Men's 50 AAA

Gray Ghost (IL): Nate Benson, Derrick Peterson, Ransley Presley, Eric Gatewood, Raymond Jackson Jr.

Area 51 (MI): Dave Frey, Emery Dunn, Michael Profitt, Dennis LaLonde.

Men's 55 Major

Doug & Don's Auto Care (MI): Carl Underwood, Jeffrey Lambricht, Kevin Jacobs.

Men's 50/55 Silver

Border Blazers 55 (OH): Keith Dunbar, Wayne Harris, Eric Iffland.

Men's 60 Major

Chicago Prime (IL): Jeffrey Horn, Dave Smith, Gary Smith, Lovelle Johnkin, Richard DeLay.

Men's 60 AAA

Michigan Merchants: James Cox, Thomas Schultz Jr., Christopher St. Charles, Larry Sheerer, James Folks.

Pet Supplies Plus (MI): Kevin Rochon, Perry Proffer, Daniel Fritz, Joel Chipman.

DC Connection (MI): Deon Robertson, Terry Paterson, Gregory Moncrief.



Spring National Championships

Women's 40 Major

TM Force (FL): Kellie Berning, Kacee Crumpacker, Gayle Borgen, Carisa Miller.

Women's 50 AAA

BAGS (FL): Marivel Gutierrez, Lisa Lines, Lynne Hancock, Dawn Santiago, Cynthia Phillips.

Born 2 Hit (GA): Lachresha DeMoss, Lashawn Mack, Cora Hilton, Eunice Gibson.

Men's 50 Platinum

LeMay Contracting (FL): Jody Simmons, Dean Thomas, Anthony Traylor.

Men's 50 AAA

Volusia Top Gun (FL): Richard Gilloz, Kenneth Mohr, Chad Hutchinson.

Men's 55 Major Plus

Kelleher Firm/LeMay/Blue Mountain (FL): Andrew Packard, Doug Kett, Mike Brock, Jeff Farney, Edward Starcher.

RBC/Team Miken-Worth (FL): Robert O'Brien, Robert Cleaver, Alan Tanner, John Livingston.

Men's 55/60 Gold

Florida Automated Shade 60: Henry Culley, Don Meyer, Brian Staub, Dennis Burgstahler, Jeff Frey.

The Winter Haven All-Stars 55 (FL): Eddie Hurn,

Continued on Next Page

ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Continued from Previous Page

Steve Sole, Tom Marchionni.

Men's 60/65/70 Gold

Venom 70 (FL): Dennis Schroeder, Phil Farmer, Larry Cudney, Anatol (Tols) Mihailoff, Bob Schreyer.

Slug-A-Bug 65 (FL): Kerry Charlet, Terry McIlrath, David Jolly.

Men's 70/75 Gold

Venom 75 (FL): Vincent Melograno, Michael Marcum, George Chance, Herbert Ballard, Bil Hans.

Senior Softball World Championships

Men's 55 Major Plus

Sommerville Softball (CA): Scott Logan, Todd Volkers, Isac Alvidrez, Robert Robinson, Curtis Horger.

Ohio Elite/R Sports: Terry Dunn, Tony Corbin.

Men's 55 Major

Bad Seed (CA): Charlie Pennes (Team MVP), Archie Hodge, Tom LaRocque.

Men's 55 AAA

Michael's Automotive Group (WA): Scott Pfeiffer, Jerry Herrington, Brent La Fond, Gary Goodin, Kevin Devine.

Men's 55 AA

So Cal Riptide (CA): Steven Barrett, Geoff McKinney, Tom Garner, Shane Lindzy, Harry Schafer.

Spin Tees (WA): Pete Boeckel, John Hendrick, Bill Jones.

Morris Clark Roofing & Siding (WA): Mike Koss, Julian Walker.

Men's 60 Major Plus

Omega IT Services, LLC (VA): Robert Hudson, Antonio Foster, Charles Clarke, Henry Flint.

Men's 60 Major

Chicago Prime (IL): Dave Smith, Michael Sullivan, Murray Richards, Lovelle Johnkin.

Men's 60 AAA

50 Caliber Silver St.
Louis (MO): Bob Wessel, Rick McGowan, Robert Patrick, Joseph Laws, Mark Suellentrop.

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO): Rick Shaum Jr., John Kirar, Arthur Talbot, Dave Lussier (Team MVP).

Men's 60 AA

Texas Legends: Ray Berry, John Christopher, Joseph Denomy, Dane Shillan, Shawn McKenzie, Co-Team MVP's - Garland Doyle & Bert Feinberg.

Full Throttle (AZ): Victor Johnson, Dennis Seper, Peter Dziawura, Mark Koskovich.

Buck Run Farms (NE): Randy Matsunami (Team MVP), Bruce Tway, Gil Stephens.

MN Lumberjacks: Kenny Nelson, Greg Heier, Don Benike (Team MVP).

Men's 65 Major Plus

MN Masters/Ancell: John Reagan, Ray Glynn, Gary Hamilton, Jeff Handevit, Jesus Adamez (MVP).

Men's 65 Major

KC Kids (MO): George Kramer, Terry Cloutier, Mike Love (Team MVP).

Men's 65 AAA

North Idaho Softball Club (MT): John Walkington, Lee Libera, Wayne Becker, Tim Coles, Ray Hofstad.

Men's 65 AA

Oklahoma Street Outlaws: Dwayne Bunch, Billy Hovarter, David Puglisi, Gary Redding.

Duke City Dynamite (NM): Dennis Rosales, Richard Gohl.

Men's 70 Major Plus

OMEN (CA): Wayne Ross, Chris Dayak, Ludwig Nordahl, Daniel Walsworth, Thomas Ott.

Men's 70 Major

San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX): Robert Garcia

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ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

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Saenz, Larry Schepers.

Men's 70 AAA

USA Patriots (OK): Michael Seraphin, Tom Stanton, Ray Harty, Oscar Wantiez.

Scrap Iron 5280 (CO): Alan Wiechmann, Patrick McGuigan, Terry Goodrich.

Men's 70 AA

Valley Fog (CA): Kent Grant, Stephen Gibson, Allen (Bill) Neri, Anthony (Tony) Trebaol, Al Sterling.

Franklin Loan Center (CA): Myron Yurko, Bob Sellers, Thomas Moore, Dave Emanuelson, Gabriel Salas (Team MVP)

STL Vision (MO): Mark Mirth, Marvin Carr, Larry Norris.

Men's 75 Major

Venom (FL): Vincent Melograno, Herbert Ballard, George Chance, George Riggs, Dave Wheeler.

Tri-State Diamondbacks (NM): Donald Carpenter, John Florence, Leslie Poland.

Men's 80 Platinum

Top Gun 80 Gold (CA): Gary Lynn Adams (Team MVP), Tom Britz, Robert McCormick, Vincent (Dave) Duarte, Maxwell Litt, Gene Adams.

Men's 40 Major Plus

Prestige Elite/Orange Co. (CA): Brian Faria, Sammy Christensen, Victor Cordova, Brian Moran.

LCP/Prestige Softball (CA): Eliseo Aguilar, Charles Case, Pilar Amaya.

Men's 40 Major

K&B Beverage/AG Painting (AZ): Carl Blank, Erik Zimmermann, Ken Shipley, Michael Riordan, Karl Green.

Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks (AZ): Jake Louk, Rogelio Ruiz, Jon Kronstedt, Ernie Olgin.

Women's 40 Major

Kryptonite Miken/Worth (FL): Corie Burnett, April Blake, Karen Hunger, Diana Williams, Diane White.

Broken Dollz (CA): Sabrina Sexton-Gildard (Team MVP), Lori Dawn Alexander, Wendy Ward.

Women's 40 AAA

Tharaldson Softball (NV): Lisa Haskell, Danelle Card, Rhonda Hilpiper-Maier, Therese Schmidt, Cassie Smith, Mariah Prussia (MVP).

Firestarter Oldies (WA): Danielle Ritter, Jami Kai, Kim Bahr

Saints (AZ): Melissa Ellis, Amy Huenneke (Team MVP).

Men's 50 AA

Goats (MD): Sherman Holloway, Kenneth Myers Sr., Mark Hauf, Adam Freeland (MVP).

Women's 50 Major

Old School (CA): Alma Guzman (Team MVP), Lisa Maxey, Joann Hester, Mitzi Aguilera, Sabrina Bobkowski, Brenda Foor.

Stix With Impact (CA): Anita Matas (Team MVP), Angie Linder, Shandra Lee, Lena Peneku-Norwood, Melissa Ellis.

Women's 50 AAA

GoFetch (CA): Sarah (Scottie) Scott, Loretta Cool, Suzie Stencil, Diane Krishna, Laura, Sherman, Jules Childress (MVP).

Winter National Championships

Men's 65 Major

Slug-A-Bug (FL): Anthony Nicometo, Paul Uzi-alko, Terry McIlrath, John Martellucci.

Men's 65 AAA

Universal Softball Team (OH): Dennis Ditmer, Dennis Wilkerson, Tennis Ooten, Chuck Wisler, James Waller.

Steve Levin Ameriprise (FL): Alan Lazarow, Thomas Baird, Emil Murano, Joe Racanelli.

Men's 70 AAA

Bulls (FL): Luis Specht, Richard Greeno, Charles Bell, Don Ingham, Juan Vasquez.

Men's 70/75 Silver



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ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

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Chicago Gray Sox 75 (IL): John Forames, Raymond Poe, Roy Iverson, Wayne Markett, Esteban Castro.

Men's 75/80 Platinum

Blaze/Ted Todd Insurance 75 (FL): Robert Schneider, Herman Griffith, Michael Griffin, Bill Shields, Bob Gallagher.

Men's 80/85 Gold

Bucs & Bulls 80 (FL): Don Williams, Gerald Flannery, Jim Sumner, William Denegar, David Burget, Ronald Russell.

ProHealth Care 85 (MN): Henry Smith, Norris Kruse, Robert D'Amadio, R.C. Brown.

Men's 50 Gold

Silver Rays (FL): Joe McLemore, Chris Wagner, Craig Lisa, Robert Hage Jr.

Men's 55 Major

K & I (IN): Randy Eades, Jay Foley, Chris Lang, Timothy Marchetti, Elmer Mason.

Men's 55 AAA

Team Illinois: Kevin Lawrence, Dave Cowan, Scott Atkin, Mark Golden.

Luther Group (WI): Todd Oleson, Michael Beatty, Gary Zinn.

Men's 60 AAA

Long Island Jaguars (NY): Anthony Cherry, John Farrell, Charlie Owens, Bill Devine, Glenn Pierce.

RedHawk Nation (FL): Howard Albritton, Alan Chatman, Steven King, David Dennison.

Curtis Engine (MD): Terence Cook, Timothy Mowery, Robert Lucas.

Winter World Championships

Men's 40 Major

SBOB/Voodoo Sports (AZ): Daniel Lopez, Samuel Rodriguez, Jake Stock, Brian Gleeson, Jimmy De La Riva.

EPT 40's (TX): Joshua Gonzalez, Gabriel Lara, Artie Ramos, Chris Locke.

Men's 40 AAA

Joker's Wild (AZ): Cesar Ruiz, Tommy Almeida, Raymond Lopez, Ernie Tellez.

Women's 40 Major

Colorado Ohana: Tanya Norton, Kat Chase, Becky Lynn Gee.

Women's 40 Silver

TST (CA): Tamaru (Nicky) Francis, Roberta Garcia, Cynthia Kodama, Arlet Okimoto, Laura Alikhan.

Saints (AZ): Chris Arthur, Amy Huenneke, Anita Matas.

Men's 50/55 Major Plus

K & B 50's (CA): Mickey Cadwell, Eric Zimmermann, Stacy Huenneke, Ken Shipley, Curtis Horger.

Vicious Cycle (CA): Jim Sanders, Derrick Williams, Sammy Bernstine, Robert Bartz.

Men's 50 Major

JayCo/ISP (ID): Dan Romero, David Tibbetts, Michael Potter, Matt Hart, Rich Johnson.

Team ASB/A&B Plumbing (CA): Joe Concepcion Jr., Eric Cox, James Brandon, Javier Salas.

Men's 50 AAA

Lokahi (AZ): Paul Souza, Andy Alejandro, Chris Clayton, Jeffrey Wright

Men's 55 Major

Arizona Old School: Kenneth McCarthy, Mark Soerheide, Marcel Spaulding, Robert Brown, Irvin LaVern.

L.A.F. (CA): Ron Barnhart, John Patterson, Matt Dobyns, Jim Roach.

Men's 55 AAA

Stars & Stripes (OR): Billy Luisi, Brent Bauer, Robert Huhnholz, Jeff Tollefsen, Mark Vaiciulis.

Team Southwest/Woodies (NM): Mike Gonzales, Barry Abt, Frank Smith, Jeff Marine.

Six-Five-O's (CA): Eric Frazee, John Batinich, Jim Harrington.

Men's 50/55 AA

Spin Tees 55 (WA): Steve Zacharczyk, Kevin

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ALL - TOURNAMENT TEAMS

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Johnson, Burdell Corner Jr., Grant Brown, Pete Boeckel.

Men's 60 Major Plus

LPC/Dudley (CA): Danny Arevalos, Paul Salow, Michael Slavenski, James Michael Gurley.

Men's 60 Major

Vegas Elite (NV): Wayne Brandon, Doug Hamlet, Jaime Lagos.

Men's 60 AAA

Santisi Brothers (AZ): William Starkweather, Mark Kuechler, Jimmy Connor, Allen Burns, Jim Hernandez.

Omaha Silver Bullets (NE): Bill Bowes, Scott Emery, Scott Opfer, Mark Ramsey

Men's 60 AA

Scrap Iron 60's Rockies (CO): Andrew Gonzales, Rick Frahm, Jose Valiente.

Men's 65 Major

Houston Fire (TX): Marcus Rollins, Robert Dillon, Kenneth Lane, Johnny Sutton, Larry Feeler.

Arizona Scorpions: David Clark, Bill Griffin, Steve Hilby, Michael Wolfe.

Arizona Old School: Hal Maughan, Joe Robertson, Bill McKnight.

Men's 65 AAA

So Cal Braves (CA): Ralph Hernandez, Raymond Lee Sikes, Tony Russo, Curtis Shur, Ron Larrieu.

Men' 70 Major

Over the Edge (CA): Donald Ludwig, Roy Ferguson, Jim Teeter, Danny Louis Coterel, John Valentine, Don Chandler

R&R 70's (CA): Russell Granda, Norbert Rud, Richard Markota

Men's 70 AAA

Scrap Iron 5280' (CO): Jerry Bost, Jim Casswell, Edward Clark, Randy Huls, Kenneth Hiatt.

USA Patriots (OK): Ray Harty, Terril Miller, Michael Seraphin, Oscar Wantiez.

Sandstorm/Los Vatos Viejos (AZ): Paul Hernandez, Keith Smith, Abe DeAnda.

Men's 70 AA

El Paso Nine-Elevens (TX): Robert Nava, Emmitt Pierce, Mickey Saucedo, Cecil Phillips Jr., Alfredo Leon.

Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA): Dennis Letcher, Stephen Pavlinovic, Gregg Kawczynski, Steven Koontz.

Men's 75 Major Plus

Sidewinders (AZ): Jerry Bianchi, Kris Schwartz, Jay Larson, Curtis Arthur, Earl (Bill) Jenkins.

Men's 75 AAA

Midwest Express (IA): John Kelly, Robert Kubat Jr., Larry Orth, Edward Rastovski, Ted Stringer.

Git-R-Done (CA): John Redner, Bill Hamilton, Bryan Wilkins, Tom Murphy.

Scrap Iron Legends (CO): Richard Bunde, Sam Cianfarano, Orville Strain.

Men's 75/80 Platinum

Tri-State Diamondbacks 75 (NM): Paul Allen, Ronne Mercer, Tony Jensen, Robert Williams, Spence Preston.

Top Gun 80 Gold (CA): James Kenney, Robert McCormick, Charlie James Wiley, Gary Evans

Men's 80 Major

Sidewinders (AZ): Paul Felice, Harold (Buster) Dickinson, Melvin Bentley, Thomas Grubb, Ronald Johnson.

Men' 80/85 Gold

Arizona Outlaws 80: Ed Strong, Richard Gwilt, Al Ludwig, Robert Sachs, Edwin Ranous.



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A Life Lesson As The Hour Glass Runs Low

I'm proud to be an old softball player in this Covid era.

We still play our tournaments, stay in shape, have lots of fun, and are running bases; while young people across the country are holed up in living rooms binging on Netflix, eating chips and dip, and complaining about politicians being the cause of all our woes.

I have memories over the years of playing in rain when young peoples' teams took those days off. We will compete in 100 degree heat, sometimes playing five or even seven games in a day coming back through a loser's bracket. Sometimes we play on bad fields, under poor lighting, with barely enough folks to field a team and nobody in the bleachers.

We hop, stop, shuffle,

CARL'S CORNER By Carl Gustafson

hobble, limp, gimp, teeter, totter, waddle, crawl, and fall on the way to home plate. We have so many injuries, pains, operations, stiff joints, missing cartilage, stents, by-passes, glasses, gasses, braces, grimacing faces, and wrapped places, that nobody even bothers to find a medical name for the ailments—because who cares, we are going to play anyway.

We have no chartered airplanes, chauffeurs, groupies, entourages, private trainers, expense accounts, or agents. We will drive long distances, stay in hotels, pay our own way, stay all day, just to get to play.

Why are we this way?
If you're like me, you

have people in seeming shock that those of us old folks in such a vulnerable demographic would defy logic and continue to play the game we love. That's because they don't see the sand left in the hour glass with an old person's perspective.

Most of us in senior softball treasure every moment on the playing field; it keeps us out of the nursing home; it gives us exhilaration in an increasingly sedentary time of life; it provides a fun society where our feats are awarded and rewarded. We return from tournaments with pride.

John Paulette played and umpired until he was ninety-two. He told me that the key to staying in shape when you're old is to never quit playing. He said an old body grows stiff and brittle very

fast and once it dries out, it won't recover.

We understand how priceless these moments in the sun are and how soon that sun is going to set. Almost 30% of my graduating class from high school is dead. Some of the remainder are house ridden or in nursing homes.

How many of your future nursing home years, just lying there taking pills and getting scolded while an aide wipes your rear end, would you trade for one year on the ball field?

Yeah, me too.
Carpe diem.

Carl Gustafson is an SSUSA Southern California Director and member of the SSUSA National Rules Committee.



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