

## Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 27

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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Shop at the SSUSA Fall Store



SSUSA Umpires at the 2020 TOC. SSUSA is always looking to add to its umpire crew. If you are interested in being an SSUSA umpire, please contact Rick Seifman, SSUSA Vice President/Umpires via email [rick@tournsport.com](mailto:rick@tournsport.com) or phone (623) 776-2143.

### From the Dugout - Know the Risks, Get Tested



**By Terry Hennessy**  
**SSUSA CEO**

PHOENIX – The pandemic played hardball with the Winter Worlds here in November.

It started before the first pitch of the tournament.

### 2020 Winter World Champs Draw 188 Teams

Thirteen teams reported positive COVID-19 tests among their players and pulled out of the tournament in the 5 days leading up to play. It was the right thing for these teams to do; they were all very disappointed, but they did not want to spread the virus to other players.

Then, on the first day of the tournament, a player on a 75 AAA team did a face plant, was bloodied and injured in the fall and went to the hospital to be treated. He tested positive for COVID-19 at the hospital.

I informed the manager that the team could not compete in the remainder of the tournament or come to the softball complex. The manager was very gracious and agreed.

Our field director, who helped treat the player and was exposed, was quarantined and later went home. Fortunately, he tested negative for the virus after his return home.

On my own 70AAA team, one player tested positive and had mild symptoms after returning from the tournament. The players who have been tested so far – including me – have been negative for the virus.

We also have received word from a 60 AAA team and two players on an 85 team tested positive. So far, the symptoms are not serious, according to the managers. Players in those divisions are recommended to get tested.

We will be doing a survey this week of managers of teams that participated in the Winter Nationals and Winter Worlds to find out if any other players tested positive. We will publish a list of the age and skill divisions of the team testing positive in the upcoming newspaper in mid-December.

Our goal is to be as transparent as possible about positive virus reports at SSUSA tournaments so that players can take the proper precautions – and so that teams know the risks when they decide to play.

Just know that I share your concerns, understand the risks and believe the protocols we have established minimize those very real risks, allowing many of us to compete. I look forward to seeing you on the field when you feel it is right for you to play!

*Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of*



**2020 Winter World Championships - Photos by Tim McElroy, SSUSA National Director**

PHOENIX – 188 teams descended upon the Valley of the Sun to begin the 2021 season at the annual Winter World Championships, Nov. 17 – 22.

Kicking off the tournament were 63 teams in the Men's 65 – 85 age divisions, Nov. 17 – 19.

Beginning with the 11-team Men's 65 Platinum Division, Houston Fire (TX) posted a perfect 4-0 record in bracket play, including a 27-15 win over Arizona Scorpions in the championship game.

After dropping its opening game in the bracket 25-23 against R&R (CA), Arizona Scorpions ran through the elimination side of the bracket with five straight wins en route to its runner-up finish.

Top seed Arizona Old School finished in third place, while Last Call (NV) finished in fourth place after winning three

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## 2021 SSUSA Tournament Schedule Coming Together



Please be sure to continue to check on the SSUSA Tournament Page for the 2021 season.

<https://seniorsoftball.com/?events>

A number of tournaments have already been posted, and others will be posted throughout the coming weeks.

## 2021 Tournament of Champions (TOC) Deadline Approaching – Dec. 28



Congratulations once again to all teams that

straight games in the elimination side of the bracket.

The lone major plus team in the division, Texas Crush Sixty Fives, played exhibition. As an exhibition team, the team is automatically seeded last and cannot advance in the bracket. Texas Crush Sixty Fives won all five of its games.

The 14-team Men's 65 AAA Division, the largest of the first session, saw So Cal Braves (CA) go 4-0 in bracket play, including a 16-8 win over Bucky's Casino (AZ) in the championship game.

Bucky's Casino had won three straight elimination games to reach the championship game.

Weekend Warriors (CA) rounded out to top three finishers, while top seed Oshkosh Ambassadors (WI) took fourth place following three straight victories in the elimination side of the bracket.

In the Men's 70 Major Plus Division, Timberworks/Adidas (CA) swept Animals (CA) in a best of three series by scores of 24-5 and 17-9, respectively.

The Men's 75 Major Plus Division also featured a best two-out-of-three game series, which would go the distance.

OMEN (CA) took the opening game over Sidewinders (AZ) 7-5, while Sidewinders bounced back with a 19-15 win to even the series.

In the rubber-match, Sidewinders completed the comeback with a 25-10 win.

In the five-team Men's 70 Major Division, Over The Edge (CA) came out of the elimination side of the bracket to double-dip top seed Sidewinders (AZ), winning the championship game (20-9) and "if" game (19-11).

Sidewinders had defeated Over The Edge 18-17 to reach the championship game.

R&R (CA) won a pair of games in the elimination side of the bracket to finish in third place.

The 12-team Men's 70 AAA Division also featured an "if" game, as Scrap Iron 5280 (CO) avoided the dreaded double-dip by winning the deciding game 14-8 over USA Patriots (OK).

USA Patriots had won six straight games, including a 7-5 win in the championship game, to force the "if" game.

Sandstorm/Los Vatos Viejos (AZ) finished in third place, while top seed Texas Rattlers finished fourth.

In a best-of-three series, the Men's 70 AA Division saw El

have qualified for the upcoming **2021 Tournament of Champions (TOC)**, scheduled for next month, Jan. 20 – 24 in Polk County, FL. **Entry deadline is Dec. 28.**

Managers, please be sure to email SSUSA ([info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com)) to enter your team into the TOC and get your roster submitted and approved.

Because of the loss of so many TOC qualifiers during the 2020 season due to the current pandemic, winners of any SSUSA qualifier in 2020 have earned a berth to the TOC.

Additionally, winners of TOC qualifiers during the 2019 season to get a berth to the 2020 TOC, will again receive a berth to the 2021 TOC.

As a reminder, teams play at the skill level they qualified at.

Team managers, please be on the lookout for your TOC invitation, which you will receive via email.

## OBITUARIES - 12/2/20



**Michael "Mike" Gene Iwakiri**

Mike Iwakiri, 72, of Boise, Idaho, died on Nov. 15.

A long-time member of SSUSA, Iwakiri played with Enterprise Electric 50 and 55, and East West Aircraft 60 and 65.

He last played in the 2019 Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup with East West Aircraft Sales, which won the Men's 65 AA Division.

Paso Nine Elevens (TX) sweep Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA) by scores of 24-12 and 27-7, respectively.

In the six-team Men's 75 AAA Division, a full round robin schedule format was used to determine a champion.

With a perfect 4-0 record, Midwest Express (IA) took the top spot.

Three teams tied for second with identical 2-2 records.

Due to the tie-breaker of least runs allowed, Git-R-Done (CA) took the runner-up spot, while Scrap Iron Legends (CO) finished third. Huberd Shoe Grease Co. (AZ) rounded out to the top four.

The Men's 75/80 Platinum Division featured a best of three series, as Tri-State Diamondbacks 75 (NM) swept Top Gun 80 Gold (CA) by scores of 24-7 and 14-1, respectively.

In the three-team Men's 80 Major Division, top seed Sidewinders (AZ) defeated Scrap Iron Gray Berets (CO), 16-9, in the championship game.

Git-R-Done Gold finished third.

In the four-team Men's 80/85 Gold Division, top seed Arizona Outlaws went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 28-16 win over Scorpions (AZ) in the championship game.

Arizona Prospectors 85 finished in third place and Get-R-Done Silver (CA) finished fourth.

The Winter World Champs continued Nov. 20-22 with 125 teams competing in the Men's 40-60 age divisions, and the Women's 40 age divisions.

In the three-team Men's 40 Major Plus Division, top seed Prodigy (CA) defeated Homebridge/KBas Inc/Competitive Edge (CO), 34-24, in the championship game.

Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks (AZ) finished in third place.

The largest division of the tournament, the 20-team Men's 40 Major Division, came down to the "if" game.

EPT (TX) escaped the elimination side of the bracket with three straight wins to reach the championship game. The team made it four straight with a 19-13 win over SBOB/VOODOO Sports (AZ) in the championship game.

The run by EPT ended there, as SBOB/VOODOO Sports avoided the double-dip with a 21-15 win in the decisive game.

Smash It Sports Northwest (WA) finished third, while top seed Kraze (CA) made a solid run though the elimination

"Mike's fondest memories were going to Reno," said Jack McGee, manager of East-West Aircraft Sales. "This year would have been the 20th year playing in Reno. Mike played three days a week in Boise and was loved by all who knew him."

"We got to know Mike and his Enterprise teammates in Reno, playing them for more than a decade, and enjoying post-game beverages with them," said SSUSA's Terry Hennessy. "Mike was a wonderful guy and we are going to miss him."

After graduating from high school, Iwakiri enlisted in the U.S. Army and did a tour in Vietnam. He returned home with hearing loss due to being a door gunner, and cancer from exposure to Agent Orange.

Along with being an avid softball player, Iwakiri had a passion for bowling and fishing.

## Shop at the SSUSA Fall Store

BSN Sports has some updated SSUSA gear just in time for the Holidays.

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**The store will close on December 14.**

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side of the bracket with three straight wins to round out the top four.

Boomtown (NV), Roster Check (AZ), Arizona Old Spice and WorkSteer (NV) were the other teams to advance to Championship Sunday. WorkSteer won four straight games in the elimination side of the bracket to advance to the final day.

In the eight-team Men's 40 AAA Division, Still Strokin (AZ) made the Cinderella run to the championship.

The team began the tournament going 0-2 in seeding play to enter bracket play as the last seed.

Still Strokin kicked off bracket play with a 21-9 upset win over top seed, Lower Columbia Merchants (WA), and continued its momentum adding three more wins, including a 20-15 win over Joker's Wild (AZ) in the championship game.

Following its opening game loss in the bracket, Lower Columbia Merchants dropped its second game, 20-19, against Vintage Softball (AZ). The team re-grouped and won three straight to eventually finish in third place.

In the four-team Women's 40 Major Division, Broken Dollz (CA) went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 14-7 win over TKP (CA) in the championship game.

Colorado Ohana finished in third place, while top seed Tharaldson Softball (NV) rounded out the four team division.

The 12-team Women's 40 Silver Division saw TST (CA) complete a perfect weekend, going 2-0 in seeding play, and 4-0 in the bracket, including a 25-14 win over top seed SOA (Signs of Aging) (AZ) in the championship game.

SOA dropped its first game of the bracket against Unfinished Business (AZ), 11-7.

The team then rattled off six straight wins to survive the elimination side of the bracket, en route to their runner-up finish.

Saints (AZ) was the third place finisher, while Unfinished Business took fourth.









Notoriously We Gucci (AZ) and B Squared (AZ) were the other teams to also advance to the final day.

In the four-team Men's 50/55 Major Plus Division, K & B 50s (AZ) avenged its 28-26 loss against Vicious Cycle 50 (CA) in the championship game, with a 31-27 victory in the winner-take-all "if" game.

Stadium 50 (CA) finished in third place, while Crush/Miken 55 (CA) was the fourth place finisher.

**DECEMBER 14**

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In the seven-team Men's 50 Major Division, JayCo/ISP (ID) registered a flawless weekend, going 2-0 in seeding play, before posting a 4-0 mark in bracket play, including a 24-18 win over Team ASB/A&B Plumbing (CA) in the championship game.

Team ASB/A&B Plumbing dropped its first game of the bracket against Arizona Heat, 19-16, and then rebounded with three straight wins to reach the championship game.

Top seed PDX Pride/Red Stone Realty (OR) finished in third place.

In the nine-team Men's 50 AAA Division, Smash It Sports NW (WA) took home the title following a 4-0 mark in bracket play, capped off by a 21-17 win over Lokahi (AZ) in the championship game.

Lokahi entered bracket play as the No. 7 seed, following its 0-2 showing in seeding play.

The team dropped a nail-biter to ETX 23-22 to begin bracket play; but was able to right the ship with six straight wins come out of the elimination side of the bracket.

ETX would go on to finish in third place.

In another nine-team division, the Men's 55 Major Division, Arizona Old School kept the title in-state, going 4-0 in bracket play, including a 25-19 win over L.A.F. (CA) in the championship game.

WPI/JayCo (ID) finished in third place after winning a pair of elimination games.

Following a loss to begin bracket play against JU Entertainment (CA), top seed Unforgotten Warriors (AZ) won three straight to eventually finish in fourth place.

The 12-team Men's 55 AAA Division saw a battle of the top two seeds.

In a match-up of undefeated teams, top seed Team Southwest/Woodies (NM) defeated No. 2 Stars & Stripes (OR), 18-9, to punch its ticket into the championship game.

Stars & Stripes would then eliminate Six Five O's (CA), 18-16, in the third-place game, to secure its spot in the championship game. After going 0-2 in seeding play, last seeded Six Five O's went 4-2 in the bracket to finish third.

In the re-match, Stars & Stripes got its revenge, edging out a thrilling 11-10 win over Team Southwest/Woodies, forcing the decisive "if" game.

The winner-take-all game saw Stars & Stripes complete the

double-dip, with a 25-17 triumph.

Scrap Iron Mile High (CO) made a valiant push through the elimination side of the bracket with four straight wins, en route to their fourth place finish.

The three-team Men's 50/55 AA Division featured an "if" game as well.

Top seed Spin Tees 55 (WA) avoided the double-dip, by defeating Team LBK 50 (TX), 23-15, in the deciding game.

Team LBK beat Spin Tees, 15-12, in the championship game, to force the "if" game.

Arizona Blaze 55 finished in third place.

The Men's 60 Major Plus Division was decided was best-of-three game series.

Legacy Sports USA (AZ) made an impressive SSUSA debut, sweeping LPC/Dudley (CA) by scores of 24-16 and 27-17, respectively.

In the eight-team Men's 60 Major Division, top seed Hawaii Five-O came to the mainland and left as champions, posting a perfect 6-0 tournament record. The team went 2-0 in seeding, and then 4-0 in bracket play, including a 19-4 win over Sidewinders (AZ).

Vegas Elite (NV) finished in third place following a pair of wins in the elimination side of the bracket. After going 0-2 in seeding play and dropping its first game in the bracket, Arizona Old School finished in fourth place following three straight wins in the elimination bracket.

In the 18-team Men's 60 AAA Division, Omaha Silver Bullets (NE) won an impressive six straight elimination games, including a thrilling 24-23 victory in the championship game over Santisi Brothers (AZ), to force the "if" game.

In the end, Omaha Silver Bullets would be unable to complete the double-dip, as Santisi Brothers returned the favor with a one-run thriller of their own 23-22 to claim the championship.

Entering the bracket as the No. 14 seed after going 0-2 in seeding play, Cut Loose (CA) rattled off three straight wins to start off bracket play, en route to an eventual third place finish.

Baker Boyz (CA) was the eventual fourth place finisher after winning three straight elimination games.

Top seed OKC Relics (OK), Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO), Hitmen/Arizona, and Yeahoos (WA) all advanced to the final day as well.



### Action from the Men's 60 AAA Division

In the six-team Men's 60 AA Division, Bucks Run Farms (NE) went undefeated for the tournament, going 2-0 in seeding play and 3-0 in bracket play, including a 17-7 win over top seed Austin Wizards (TX) in the championship game.

Scrap Iron Rockies (CO) finished in third place after winning three straight games in the elimination side of the bracket.

**CLICK HERE** for game-by-game scores (please be sure to refresh your page).

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