

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 7, Edition 3

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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Renew Your SSUSA Player/Team Registration Online

SSUSA Custom Gaiter



Get your passport ready and travel the world with SSUSA. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks on upcoming international trips in 2021 and 2022.

From the Dugout - Hope Warms the Soul



By Terry Hennessy SSUSA CEO

The human spirit draws its strength from hope.

And hope is certainly needed now -- in this twilight time when a deadly pandemic appears finally to be coming under control, but still wields deadly power.

In our sport, there will soon be reasons to rejoice as states that have been locked down open the gates to leagues and tournaments.

In Nevada and California, it appears that this will happen in the middle of March. In some other more Northern states -- and some Southern states, the melting snow and warm winds of Spring should be ushering in a full season of softball.

Finally!

Senior Softball USA is planning a complete schedule of tournaments throughout America and internationally for 2021. SSUSA leagues are gearing up to play, as well.

Looking Back: Harris and Blackwell Break Barriers



Billie Harris & Norm Blackwell

In celebration of Black History Month, Senior Softball-USA honors two legendary Senior Softball pioneers.

SSUSA Hall of Fame members, pitcher Billie Harris, 88, of Arizona; and manager, Norm Blackwell 87, of California, have each left their respective marks on the game.

Harris was elected into the SSUSA Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2010.

She was also inducted into the Arizona Softball Hall of Fame in 1979, the National Softball Hall of Fame in 1982, the Tucson Softball Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Arizona Hall of Fame in 2009.

Harris pitched a remarkable 70 no-hitters, including four perfect games, in her career.

"Billie has left an indelible mark on the sport of softball," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer, at the time of Harris' induction. "She was the first African-American player on Arizona's first all-women's softball team during the '50s and '60s."

"Billie played on the Saints women's senior softball team for several years," added Hennessy. "Billie represents much more than the game of softball; she provides an exceptional example of excellence in life."

CLICK HERE to watch a feature on Billie Harris by FOX Sports Arizona.

CLICK HERE to read an article on Harris from 2018, celebrating her 85th birthday - with what else, &

Of course, our fingers are crossed. One of the lessons of 2020 is that things can change unexpectedly and dramatically.

But hope for 2021 does warm the soul.

I look forward to seeing you on the field soon!

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

## Guy Anderson Featured on KCRA My58 News



**Guy W. Anderson**

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) member and Hall of Fame High School Baseball Coach, Guy Anderson, was recently featured on KCRA My58 News.

Anderson, 88, of Gold River, Calif., is a long-time member of Sacramento Gold, playing on the 70s, 75s, 80s, and 85s teams.

He last played in the 2019 season with the Sacramento Gold 85 team, playing in the Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup and World Championships.

Anderson helped lead his Sacramento Gold 80 team to a first place finish at the 2016 World Championships.

Over his 45-year coaching career at Cordova High School in Rancho Cordova, Calif., Anderson notched 927 wins - most all-time in Northern California (second in the state).

Anderson was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Hall of Fame in 2001. He was also inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame, the California Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame, and the Sacramento Sports Hall of Fame. Easton Sports voted Anderson "Master Coach" in 2003.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** to read the article and view the news clip.

## OBITUARIES - 2/19/21

ball game.

Blackwell is one of the most decorated players in Sacramento history, and a manager of teams winning 90 world, national and regional titles. Blackwell's Sacramento Gold 80s team won the Triple Grand Slam in 2016.

Blackwell was inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2017.

"Norm Blackwell represents the best qualities of our sport," Hennessy said at the time of Blackwell's Hall of Fame induction. "He is not only an exceptional athlete, but he has provided an excellent example – and training – for ballplayers of all ages."

Blackwell managed and played for Sacramento Gold for two decades.

He is a proud member of seven Hall of Fames, including the California Senior Softball Association, NorCal Senior Softball Association, Mexican-American Baseball, LaSalle Club Baseball.

Blackwell was also a 1996 Olympic torchbearer.

At 19, Blackwell was offered a contract to play semi-pro ball in 1952; which he turned down on the advice of his relatives as he would have had to play in the South.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** to read more about Norm Blackwell.

## COVID Cup Held in Kona



**By Jeffrey Kimoto**  
**SSUSA Hawaii State Director**

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii — Locals say it never rains in Kona. Well, it finally did, but only on the first day of the COVID (Mayor's) Cup held Jan. 15-17 at the Old Airport Field in Kailua-Kona.

With the COVID-19 pandemic still surging in most states, numbers were low enough on the Big Island to allow 12 teams, who followed safe playing protocols, to finally commence tournament play.

Almost a third of the players who played in the COVID Cup had to fly into the Big Island and were subject to taking a mandatory travel pre-test. As of Feb. 1, there were no reports of any COVID cases from playing this tournament.

With so many people hesitant to fly or play softball because of COVID, the tournament committee (Bob Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Kimoto, and Dave Fukumoto) made the decision to allow one additional younger player to a team (from three to four) to round out a team's roster—this rule was temporary.

A new team brought attention to the Men's Mauna Kea (upper) 60s division, Team Kia'i, a fusion of players from Kauai, Maui, and the mainland, powered their way through the tournament going undefeated and winning by an average of 11 runs per game.

The team is managed by Shawn Hosaka and Bully Balocan. Gary Chaney garnered the MVP award for hitting at least one homerun every game.

"I thought our team played well enough to win, we made the plays we had to," said Hosaka.

"We tried to keep our errors to a minimum and we did our best to answer our opponents runs with runs of our own throughout the tournament. We were also lucky that none of our guys got hurt since we were 10 strong."

In the Mauna Loa (lower) 60s division, Earl Wakakua's Hilo Legends had to play the if game against local rivalry Kona Legends. Hilo Legends defeated Kona Legends 11-7, giving them back-to-back tournament wins.

Next year's tournament, the 10th Hawaii Mayor's Cup, will be held Jan. 17 to 21 and will have a slightly different format. There will now be a new 70s Men's division to be held on Thursday, Jan. 20 and Friday, Jan. 21. This division will allow four younger players 68 and 69 years old.

"I wanted to protect the older players so they can enjoy playing among their own age group without worrying about getting hurt by younger, stronger players," said Jeffrey Kimoto, tournament co-chair.

In the 60s Men's division, we will revert back to allowing only three players 55-59 on a team, playing on Monday, Jan. 17 to Wednesday, Jan. 19.



**Pete Davignon**

Pete Davignon, 82, who helped save countless lives through the promotion of Prostate Cancer awareness to senior softball players, died after a lengthy illness on Feb. 7.

Davignon, of Chico, California, created CAN- Sirs in 2010. Using donations and the proceeds from tournaments he ran, Davignon built an organization of senior players who were cancer survivors. The organization was dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention.

These cancer survivors formed a support group for fellow players and formed a CAN-Sirs team that competed in SSUSA tournaments. They used the tournaments to pass out information, recommend annual testing and talk with players about the importance of early detection of prostate cancer.

In 2016, Davignon and SSUSA teamed up to co-sponsor the annual SSUSA/CAN-Sirs Northern California State Championships.

"Pete had a passion for the sport – and was dedicated to saving lives through early detection of prostate cancer through annual exams," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. "He helped save countless lives – including mine. Annual tests helped catch my aggressive stage 3 prostate cancer. Without the awareness of the danger and taking those annual exams, my outcome could have been vastly different."

Davignon had been a force in developing Senior Softball in Northern California for more than 20 years. He had been a long-time Board member of the Northern California Senior Softball Association, one of the largest tournament organizations in America.

Along with playing with his CAN-Sirs team, Davignon was also a member of Sacramento Rebels, Boys of Summer, Shaggin Dragons, and Fix N Flex, among others.

Additionally, Davignon was a former contributor to SSUSA News through his CAN-Sirs Corner column.

The Wahine (women's) division will also play Monday, Jan. 17 to Wednesday, Jan. 19. Entry fee is \$550/team. More information is available at [hawaiimayorscup.org](http://hawaiimayorscup.org)

## Upcoming TOC Qualifiers - Reserve Your Spot



### The World Championships Return to Las Vegas - Sept. 16 - Oct. 3, 2021

**Don't miss the biggest tournament in Slow-pitch Softball: The World Championships, the Granddaddy of National Senior Championships! The World Championships returns to a re-opened Las Vegas in 2021 with the largest divisions, free QUALITY Rings, and fair competitor because we check rosters.**

**Look for exciting new promotions for the World Championships in TOC Qualifiers.**

Teams, don't miss out on other upcoming marquee 2021 SSUSA events, with division winners earning a berth to the 2022 **Original Tournament of Champions (TOC)**.

Deadlines for some TOC Qualifiers are quickly approaching in the next few months.

Be sure to contact SSUSA sooner, rather than later, to enter your team into these tournaments and reserve your spot.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic cancelling a number of these qualifiers in 2020, SSUSA looks forward to once again welcoming teams to our host partner cities, such as Virginia Beach, Las Vegas, and Raleigh, among others, in 2021.

## 2021 Spring World Championships

Location(s): Mesquite, NV / St. George, UT

Dates of Play: March 19-28, 2021

**Deadline: Friday, February 26, 2021**

Entry Fee: \$495

**\*Please Note: there is currently a wait list for Session 2 (Men's 65 - 85).**



Arches National Park

## 2021 40's Spring World Championships

Location: Cathedral City, CA

Dates of Play: March 20-21, 2021

**Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2021**

Entry Fee: \$495



**Harold (Hal) D. Feinberg**

Hal Feinberg, 82, of San Mateo, Calif., died on Dec. 21.

Feinberg began playing senior softball in 1990, joining the Redwood City Seniors Softball Club. With the club, he served on the board of directors and as vice president.

In SSUSA, Feinberg was a long-time member of Sonoma Fog 70, last playing in the 2014 Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup. He was also a member of Chiefs 70/Redwood City Seniors, RC State Roofing Royals 60, and RC Cardinals 60, among others.

Feinberg was also a member of the Northern California Senior Softball Association. With NCSSA, Feinberg managed several tournament teams (Sonoma Fog and Redwood City Chiefs), served as an area representative to the board of directors, and was the treasurer for a number of years.

For all of his efforts, Feinberg was elected to the NCSSA Hall of Fame in 2015.

Feinberg earned his Physical Education teaching credential from San Francisco State, and later a counseling credential. He retired at age 60 following a 34-year career in education.



**Tom Banks Jr.**

Tom Banks, 61, of Woodbridge, Va., died on Jan. 28 of COVID.

Banks began playing SSUSA in 2009 with Diamond Fever 50.

He most recently played in the 2020 Eastern National Championships with NoVa Storm 60.

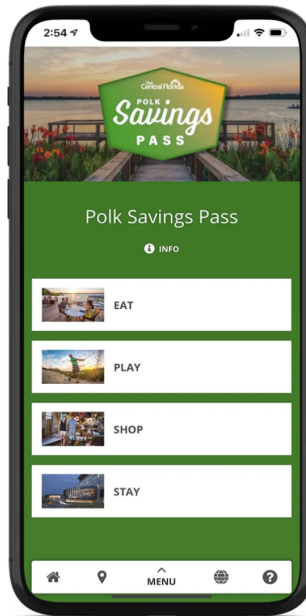
Banks was also a member of BH Maintenance 50, Straight Gas 50, and Pill & Pill 55.



**Fountain of Life - Cathedral City.**

## [2021 Spring National Championships](#)

Location: Polk County, FL  
 Dates of Play: March 19-21, 2021  
**Deadline: Friday, March 5, 2021**  
 Entry Fee: \$475



The **Polk Savings Pass** will provide a unique opportunity to stay longer, play harder, eat more, and shop till you drop while in Polk County, FL.

The pass showcases exclusive discounts and special offers for local restaurants, shops, and more.

Get your Polk Savings Pass today and experience why Central Florida's Polk County is truly Florida's Sweetest Spot.

## [2021 Tidewater Classic](#)

Location: Virginia Beach, VA  
 Dates of Play: March 24 - 28, 2021  
**Deadline: Wednesday, March 10, 2021**  
 Entry Fee: \$475

"Tom was a wonderful human being with a huge smile and an infectious laugh," said former teammate and manager Brad Skipper. "He was a tremendous father, a consummate teammate, and a wealth of information. He was one of our rocks and will missed be all of us at Fairfax Adult Softball, the DMV and on the senior circuit."



**John R. (Bob) Sebring**

Bob Sebring, 77, of San Jose, Calif., died on Feb. 4.

Sebring was a long-time member of SSUSA, last playing in the 2019 Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup with State Roofing Systems 75. Along with State Roofing Systems, Sebring was also a member of RWC State Roofing Systems 70, Mustangs 65, and Diamondbacks 60, among others. He also managed the California Starzz 65 and 60 teams.

"Bob was a terrific person and teammate, who developed into a very good pitcher," said Chet Lane, manager of State Roofing Systems 75. "I played against Bob as far back as the 1980s, when he managed the Pigherders and played many times at Twin Creeks. He was an excellent tournament director as well. He will be missed by all who knew him."

Sebring was also a member of the Northern California Senior Softball Association for many years. With NCSSA, Sebring managed and played for several teams, in addition to being a director of tournaments in Pleasanton, Livermore and Fremont.

For his efforts, Sebring was elected to the NCSSA Hall of Fame in 2017.

"Bob Sebring was a true friend to softball and I am very blessed to have been able to call him my good friend as well," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. "Bob always had an amazing way to make you feel like you were the most important person on earth. I will miss him greatly and I will find it sad not to find him first thing at a tournament. I learned a lot about softball from Bob, he will be greatly missed."

Sebring served in the US Navy and was a graduate of San Jose State. He worked for PG&E for 37 years.

### In Memoriam



**King Neptune - Virginia Beach**

## 2021 Southwest Championships

Location: Las Vegas, NV  
Dates of Play: April 13 - 18, 2021  
**Deadline: Tuesday, March 23, 2021**  
Entry Fee: \$545



## 2021 Texas State Championships

Location: Grapevine, TX  
Dates of Play: April 27 - May 2, 2021  
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 13, 2021**  
Entry Fee: \$475



**Grapevine Lake**

## 2021 Atlantic Coast Championships

Location: Raleigh, NC  
Dates of Play: May 11 - 16, 2021  
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 27, 2021**  
Entry Fee: \$475

Carol Brotherton (1933 - 2021) - wife of Hugh Brotherton (NSSHOF Class of 2016 & SSUSA Hall of Fame Class of 2019), manager of Center For Sight 85.

### Renew Your SSUSA Player/Team Registration Online

The 2021 Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) season is underway!

Players, if your SSUSA National ID card has expired, now is the time to renew.

To renew your registration, please sign into your player account with your e-mail address and password.

If you do not know your password, or never set up your online account, please email [info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com).

Managers, if you haven't done so already, please pay your 2021 team registration fee online and begin building your master roster for the new season.

Thanks for playing SSUSA and good luck in 2021!



**North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame**

Visit the [2021 SSUSA Tournament Page](#) to view a qualifier near you.

**As a reminder, teams must play in at least one (1) qualifier during the season in order to secure its qualifying roster to play in the Eastern/Western National Championships, and the World Championships.**

### SSUSA Custom Gaiter

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