

## Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 7, Edition 9

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Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 7, Edition 9

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Second Annual Caribbean Classic - Deposit Deadline Oct. 29



27 SSUSA Directors and UIC's participated in CPR/AED/Basic First Aid training prior to the start of the Worlds.

### Extra Innings: Enjoy The Journey



Ed Rose and his team helping to bring running water to remote areas in the Dominican Republic

The documentary, *Extra Innings*, was featured in the recent Summer/Fall edition of SSUSA News. *Extra Innings* revolves around a team, Hollis Appraisals (FL), of competitive senior citizens attempting to stay young at heart in a game they love, filled with its ups and downs. The film expresses the preparation and sacrifices required to compete at the highest level of the sport, as well as life itself.

"This documentary is not about watching old guys play softball," said Ed Rose. "The film is of high quality with valuable life lessons. We

### Worlds Return to Vegas with a Bang: Vandals (CA) Complete Triple Grand Slam

have separated into four episodes so you can watch as time permits. Enjoy your journey."

To watch the four-part documentary, please click the links below.

**Episode #1:** "A Man Without a Dream, Is Like a Car Without Gasoline"  
<https://youtu.be/gLaqQGin17A>

**Episode #2:** "Importance of Keeping Your Mind and Body Moving"  
<https://youtu.be/CQkTumLBkQU>

**Episode #3:** "The Agony of Defeat"  
<https://youtu.be/Q0R3KZA7aA>

**Episode #4:** "Finish Your Life Strong"  
<https://youtu.be/FKbFpfHwhg4>

## National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) Class of 2021



Senior Softball-USA highlighted the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2021 in the recent Summer/Fall Edition of SSUSA News. However, three names were inadvertently omitted.

The missing names were Glen May (Sponsor), Larry Nelson (Player), and Ronald Daniel (Umpire).



**Glen May**

Glen May, of St. Peters, MO, has played on and/or sponsored Senior Softball teams for almost 20 years. He has sponsored one or two 50 Caliber teams each year since 2009. The teams he sponsors have played in over 100 Senior Softball sanctioned tournaments.



**Fran Dowell, SSUSA Executive Director (right), presents an appreciation award to Amber Held, of Las Vegas Events, the Title Sponsor of the World Championships.**

**LAS VEGAS** – The Senior Softball World Championships returned here with the Men's 55s and 60s age divisions jump starting the largest tournament in the sport, Sept. 16-19.

With the state of Nevada virtually shutdown in 2020 due to the pandemic, the World Championships last year were split between Utah (St. George/Santa Clara) and Arizona (Kingman / Phoenix / Glendale / Mesa).

With teams chomping at the bit to return to the mecca of Senior Softball for the marquee event of the season, the opening session of the tournament featured 185 teams, representing 33 states, with 602 games scheduled to be played across eight divisions.

California and Texas teams tied with three championships each, while Missouri and Iowa teams also brought home titles.

Session one of the Worlds featured seven U.S. National Championship Games, pitting the best from the West against the beasts from the East. The Eastern teams edged out a slim 4-3 advantage over their counterparts from the West.

Just one team would go on to complete the elusive Triple Grand Slam

Dave Dowell, SSUSA National Director/Scheduling, says of May:

"Glen's 50 Caliber teams can always be relied upon to bring nothing but the best to any tournament. They are extremely well prepared, graciously accept umpire and director decisions that may not always go their way and they make it difficult, with just a casual observation, to know whether they won or lost their most recent game. He is deserving of this honor and will make a great ambassador for Senior Softball and the NSSHOF".



**Larry Nelson**

Larry Nelson, of Roseville, MN, racked up 12 NSSHOF points over his 17-year playing career across all of the major senior softball organizations as a member of MN Masters in the 50s, 55s, 60s, and 65s age divisions.

For his efforts, Nelson was also inducted into the Minnesota Senior Sports Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

Don Bowman says of Nelson:

"He has the unique ability to play at a very high level in any of the four outfield positions, as well as being a stellar performer at third, shortstop, and second base. He has all the tools: great glove, power, ability to hit for singles if needed, speed, and a team leader".

Dave Reed says of Nelson:

"He is a five tool player with home run power and a high average. He is a great ambassador for softball. After a game, winning or losing, he is very respectful of everyone's feelings and is fun to be around".

Dick Anderson says of Nelson:

"Larry always played a huge part on offense, hitting .700 to .800. On defense Larry could play any position and excel. He is a 'class act' as a person, gets along well with teammates and opponents alike. He would be a most worthy member of the Hall of Fame".

– Vandals (CA), Men's 60 Major.

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

Additionally, a Hall of Fame ceremony was held on the opening day of the tournament, as Paul Salow, of Cathedral City, Calif., was officially inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF). Salow was part of the NSSHOF Class of 2020. Salow played in the Men's 60 Major Plus Division as a member of LPC/Dudley (CA).



**Paul Salow (with plaque), Kat Ray (Founder of Ms. Senior Universe), Dave "Mango" Meggison**

#### **Men's 55 Major Plus (8 Teams)**



**Sommerville Softball (CA) - Men's 55 Major Plus Back-to-Back-to-Back World Champions**

In the eight-team Men's 55 Major Plus Division, BPA (PA) cruised passed Sommerville Softball (CA), 28-12, for the U.S. National Championship.

The win gave BPA the No. 1 seed in the bracket, while Sommerville took the No. 2 seed as the runner-up.

Shaking off the loss of the U.S. National Championship, Sommerville Softball registered a perfect 4-0 record in bracket play, including a 39-30 win over Kelleher Firm/LeMay/Blue Mountain (FL) in the championship game.

For Sommerville Softball, this marks the team's fourth straight World Championship title.

Kelleher Firm/LeMay/Blue Mountain won three straight elimination games before falling short in the championship game.



**Ronald Daniel**

Ronald Daniel has been involved in Senior Softball for 14 years, umpiring 28 major tournaments.

Daniel served as USSSA NC State UIC from 1993 – 1998, USSSA NC State Director from 1998-2008, and Senior Umpire from 2009 to present.

Don Clatterbough says of Daniel:  
 “Ron is a gentleman on and off the field. He enjoys his job umpiring and working with softball teams and their various personalities. He maintains control with diplomacy and knowledge of the game.”

#### **About the NSSHOF**

The National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) was founded in 1995 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and is now Headquartered in Mustang, Oklahoma. Its purpose is to recognize players, managers, umpires, directors, and sponsors, who have achieved the highest honors in Senior Softball.

For more information on the NSSHOF, including nomination requirements and forms, please visit [http:// www.sshof.org](http://www.sshof.org).

Congratulations again to the entire 23-person NSSHOF Class of 2021!

#### **Pioneer Players**

Brenda Phelps  
 James J. Nugent  
 James “Duffie” Stone  
 Thomas Ladd

#### **Pioneer Manager**

Darrell Pinkerton (Deceased 2021)

#### **Managers**

Carol Phillips  
 Thomas Stankus

#### **Players**

Lydia Crandall  
 Vance Gudmundsen  
 Scott A. Logan  
 Jose L. Moreno  
 Kevin P. Naylor  
 Larry Nelson  
 Lud Nordahl

Suncoast/Adidas/Shades (FL) finished in third place, while Speedwerx (MN) rounded out the top four finishers.

Falling short of the Triple Grand Slam, BPA finished in a tie for fifth place, along with Ohio Elite/R Sports/AMR.

#### **Men's 55 Major (32 Teams)**



**Rock N Legends 9 (TX) - Men's 55 Major World Champions**

In the 32-team Men's 55 Major Division, Dugout/Mid-Atlantic/Dudley (VA) bested L.A.F (CA), 29-26, for the U.S. National Championship title.

Dugout/Mid-Atlantic/Dudley would fall short of the Triple Grand Slam, as the team was eliminated on Saturday evening.

Eight teams would go on to advance to play on Championship Sunday, with 55 OH MY (CA) and Rock N Legends 9 (TX) in the driver's seat with unbeaten records.

In the end, Rock N Legends 9 completed an undefeated tournament, going 2-0 in seeding play (entering bracket play as the No. 6 seed), and 6-0 in bracket play, including a 31-20 win over Bad Seed (CA) in the championship game.

Bad Seed got off on the wrong foot, going 0-2 in seeding play to enter the bracket as the No. 27 seed. The team also dropped its opening bracket game, 23-17, against No. 4 seed Aurora Tap House (IL).

Looking to run the gauntlet, Bad Seed did just that, rattling off an incredible eight straight games in the elimination side of the bracket, before running out of gas in the championship game.

After winning their first four bracket games, 55 OH MY went 0-2 on Sunday to eventually finish in third place.

Similar to Bad Seed, Texas Bulls also made a valiant run through the elimination side of the bracket, winning six straight games en route to their eventual fourth place finish.

Wolfpack/Washington Legends and Bond 124/OSS/Phil's Painting (MA) tied for fifth place.

#### **Men's 55 AAA (46 Teams)**

William Scales  
Frank Shotwell  
Shirley Snell  
Gary Springer  
Murray Williams

**Sponsor**

Glen May  
John (Jack) Spicer

**Director**

Lonnie O'Haver

**Umpire**

Ronald Daniel

## OBITUARIES - 9/22/21



**Warren Joseph Smothers**

Warren Smothers, 76, of Houston, Tex., died on Aug. 8.

Smothers was the long-time manager of Mixed Breed 50, which he managed for over 18 years.

At the 2014 World Championships in Las Vegas, Smothers guided his team to a runner-up finish in the 62-team Men's 50 AAA Division. The team posted an 8-2 record in the tournament, with both losses coming against eventual champion, Oklahoma Rhino.

"Warren was undoubtedly a great CEO, manager and coach," said Eric Young, a four-year member of Mixed Breed. "His love for the game was unmatched by many. He was a very generous person and enjoyed the fellowship with anyone, no matter the subject. His leadership was beyond reproach. He will be truly missed."

"Mr. Warren managed softball for 50 years," added Stewart Henry, another long-time member of Mixed Breed. "A dedicated family man who also instilled those values in his players, Warren was honest and straight forward with everyone he met. He loved and enjoyed the game of softball. He will be greatly missed, especially by his Mixed Breed family."

Smothers worked at Greif Brothers Inc. for 25



**KC Vintage (MO) - Men's 55 AAA World Champions**

In the largest division of the first session, the 46-team Men's 55 AAA Division, N.E. Merchants (MD) downed Wilsons (ID) 18-12 in the National Championship Game.

N.E. Merchants fell short of the Triple Grand Slam, as the team finished in tie for fifth place, along with Top Gun Phantoms (CA).

Bracket play for the division was split into two 23-team pods – American Pod and National Pod.

Eight teams would eventually advance to Championship Sunday, with four teams in the driver's seat with undefeated records – Top Gun Phantoms, Alliance/Scrap Iron (CO), Carolina Legends (NC) and KC Vintage (MO).

In the end, KC Vintage polished off a flawless tournament, as the team went 2-0 in seeding and 6-0 in bracket play, including a thrilling 19-18 win over Carolina Legends in the championship game.

Carolina Legends won three straight elimination games en route to their eventual runner-up finish.

Alliance/Scrap Iron finished in third place, while Fossil Fuel (CA) rounded out the top four finishers.

After going 0-2 in seeding play, Fossil Fuel re-grouped with back-to-back wins to open up bracket play. Following a loss to Carolina Legends 15-14, which dropped the team into the elimination side of the bracket, Fossil Fuel strung together a run of five straight victories, before again falling to Carolina Legends, 19-17.

### **Men's 55 AA Division (9 Teams)**

years and later went on to own and manage Enterprise Janitorial Services for 30 years.



**Stephen Browning Agard**

Stephen (Doc) Agard, 83, of Frederick, Wisc., died on Aug. 19.

Agard was a long-time member of SSUSA and recently played with three teams during the 2021 season (Team Rehabilitation 85, Minnesota Masters 80, and MN Lumberjacks 75).

Additionally, Agard previously played with ProHealth Care 80, MN Legends 80, Iowa Buzzards 75, Jimmy's Minnesota Gold 75, MN Masters 70, and MN Lumberjacks 70, among others.

Agard earned numerous All-Tournament honors throughout his playing career.

"Steve was a retired math professor from the University of Minnesota, thus the nickname 'Doc,'" said Lowell Thompson, manager of Minnesota Masters 80. "Nobody loved playing softball more than Doc. He never missed a chance to play in a tournament and in recent years played on numerous teams at different age levels. He played with intensity and gusto and his whole being. He was a team player and great teammate."

Agard attended Swarthmore College (PA), where he was a member of the baseball team. He would then go on to earn his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Michigan. Agard joined the faculty of the School of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota in 1967, after spending two years at Stanford University.

## **2021 SSUSA Convention**

The 2021 SSUSA National Convention will take place Monday, November 29 - Thursday, December 2, in SSUSA's home city of Sacramento, Calif.



**Salty Old Dogs (TX) - Men's 55 AA World Champions**

In the nine-team Men's 55 AA Division, Longshoremen (VA) outlasted Spin Tees (WA), 25-22, in the U.S. National Championship Game.

Longshoremen would come up just short of completing the Triple Grand Slam, as the team dropped the "if" game, 39-28, against Salty Old Dogs (TX).

After falling to Salty Old Dogs in the winner's bracket final, 21-10; Longshoremen edged out Canyon West (AZ), 20-19, in the third-place game, and then knocked off Salty Old Dogs, 20-15, in the championship game, forcing the decisive "if" game.

Salty Old Dogs went 2-0 in seeding, and 4-1 in bracket play, avoiding the dreaded double-dip.

Spin Tees rounded out the top four finishers.

## **Men's 60 Major Plus (5 Teams)**



**LPC/Dudley (CA) - Men's 60 Major Plus Back-to-Back-to-Back-to-Back World Champions**

In the five-team Men's 60 Major Plus Division, Legacy Sports USA (AZ) took home the U.S. National Championship via its 28-21 victory over Omega IT Services, LLC (VA).

Legacy Sports USA's quest for a Triple Grand Slam would be derailed by LPC/Dudley (CA).

After falling to Legacy Sports USA, 18-9, in the winner's bracket final, LPC/Dudley rebounded with a 33-19 win over Minnesota Merchants (MN) in the third-place game. The team then double-dipped Legacy Sports USA, winning both the championship (20-18) and "if" (32-29) games.



[CLICK HERE](#) for the Convention Agenda

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Convention Registration

[CLICK HERE](#) for Hotel Booking

### Host Hotel Information:

**Holiday Inn Sacramento Downtown - Arena**

300 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 446-0100

**Code: SSU**

Rate: (Subject to local/state taxes/fees)  
\$132.00/night

**Second Annual Caribbean Classic - Deposit Deadline Oct. 29**

For LPC/Dudley, this marks the team's fifth straight World Championship title, winning the tournament every year since aging up to the 60s division in 2017. The team also won the Worlds in 2016 in the 55 Major Plus Division, giving the team six straight overall World titles.

Texas Crush Sixties finished in fourth place.

### Men's 60 Major (30 Teams)



**Player on the Vandals (CA) looks to knock one out of the park and lead his team to the Triple Grand Slam**

The 30-team Men's 60 Major Division finally saw a team complete the Triple Grand Slam.

Vandals (CA) defeated Levin/Ameriprise (FL), 15-11, in the U.S. National Championship Game, to enter bracket play as the top seed.

The Western National Champs would go on to complete the full task, going 5-0 in bracket play, including a thrilling 32-31 win over AMR/Salsa Bombers (MI) in the championship game.

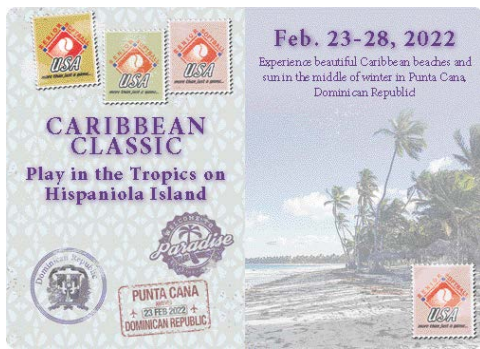
AMR/Salsa Bombers went 5-2 in bracket play, with both losses coming at the hands of the Vandals.

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder (CO) won four straight games in the elimination side of the bracket en route to their eventual third place finish.

After dropping their first two games in the bracket, Levin/Ameriprise rattled off five straight wins to round out the top four finishers.

Olympian Athletics (PA) and Xtreme/J&H (MN) finished tied for fifth place.

### Men's 60 AAA (40 Teams)



Senior Softball USA is pleased to announce the return of an international tournament to be held February 2022 on the beautiful island of Hispaniola.

The second annual Caribbean Classic will feature one or two SSUSA teams assembled from the USA and Canada playing against local senior softball teams from the Dominican Republic, and possibly a team from Venezuela.

SSUSA players and their guests will be staying at the Bavaró Bárcelo Palace, an all-inclusive beachfront resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

The resort has agreed to waive its usual day use fee and allow two local Dominican teams to come onto its access-controlled grounds and play against our SSUSA players on its beautiful ballfield, located just 50 yards from the beach.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for the tentative itinerary.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for the booking form.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** for a brief video of the resort, showing the various sports offered.



**Texas Heat - Men's 60 AAA World Champions**

In the 40-team Men's 60 AAA Division, Yeahoos (WA) edged out Crossfit/Great Clips (NC), 12-11, in a thrilling U.S. National Championship Game.

Yeahoos would get eliminated on Saturday afternoon, as the team was unable to complete the Triple Grand Slam.

Bracket play for the division was split into two 20-team pods – American and National.

Eight teams would advance to Championship Sunday, with Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO), Claremont Property Co. (OH), Big Daddy's Donuts (MO), and Texas Heat in the driver's seat with undefeated records.

The division would eventually come down to the "if" game, as Texas Heat avoided the dreaded double-dip, taking the decisive game, 25-9, over Scrap Iron Xplosion.

Scrap Iron Xplosion had defeated Texas Heat, 11-8, in the championship game to force the "if".

Claremont Property Co. finished in third place, while Big Daddy's Donuts rounded out the top four finishers.

Tying for fifth place were Texas Legends and Hitmen/Arizona.

### **Men's 60 AA (15 Teams)**



**Antiques of Iowa City (IA) - Men's 60 AA World Champions**

In the 15-team Men's 60 AA Division, Antiques of Iowa City (IA) double-dipped OKC RedHawks (OK), winning the championship (27-14) and "if" game (19-15).

OKC RedHawks defeated Antiques of Iowa City 16-13 in the winner's bracket final to punch its ticket to the championship game.

Antiques of Iowa City defeated Lights Out (CA) 37-19 in the third place game to secure its spot in the championship game.

Top seed So Cal Riptide (CA) finished in fourth place.

Tying for fifth place were Arizona Blaze and So-Cal Titans (CA).

### **Upcoming Divisions**

The Worlds continue this week with the Men's 65 through 85 age divisions, Monday, Sept. 20 – Thursday, Sept. 23. The Men's and Women's 40 age divisions will follow, Friday, Sept. 24 – Sunday, Sept. 26.

The tournament will conclude with the Men's 50 (Thursday, Sept. 30 – Sunday, Oct. 3) and Women's 50 (Friday, Oct. 1 – Sunday, Oct. 3).

## **2021 Rocky Mountain Championships Set Record with 82 Teams**

AURORA, Colo., - The 2021 Rocky Mountain Championships set a record with 82 teams in attendance here at Aurora Sports Park from Aug. 20-22.

With the 2020 edition cancelled due to the pandemic, teams flocked at the chance to return to the Centennial State. The previous tournament record was 66 teams in 2019.

Highlighting the tournament was the annual skills competition put on by the Scrap Iron Softball Club. The club would go on to have a banner weekend, with six Scrap Iron teams winning championships.

Starting off with the eight-team Men's 50/55 Platinum Division, Scrap Iron Tenacity (CO) benefited from some home cooking, going 4-0 in bracket play, including a 27-12 win over Texas Aces in the championship game.

Texas Aces had rattled off three straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket on Championship Sunday, before running out of steam in the championship game.

Maher Homes Nebraska Elite finished in third place, while Scrap Iron/Elite (CO) rounded out the top four finishers.

In the 12-team Men's 50 AAA Division, the largest division of the tournament, Lokahi (AZ), went 5-0 in bracket play, including a 20-4 win over Texas Rush in the championship game.

Savon (UT) made a valiant run through the elimination side of the bracket, winning five straight games, before falling in the third place game.

Damage (UT) finished in fourth place.

The 55 Major Division featured a best-of-three-game series, as Texas Bulls swept ManCave (TX) by scores of 25-24 and 30-13, respectively.

In the nine-team Men's 55 AAA Division, top seed Alliance/Scrap Iron

(CO) went undefeated on the weekend, going 2-0 in seeding, and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 26-15 win over Team Southwest/Woodies (NM) in the championship game.

Team Southwest/Woodies had won three straight elimination games to reach the championship game.

KC Vintage (MO) finished in third place, while Bootleggers (CO) finished fourth.

In the three-team Men's 50/55 AA Division, top seed Salty Old Dogs 55 (TX) went through the tournament unscathed, winning all three seeding games, and then going 2-0 in the bracket, including a 25-18 win over Team LBK 50 (TX) in the championship game.

Manifest 55 (TX) was the third place finisher.

The five-team Men's 60 Major Division also featured the home team win it all, as top seed Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder went 3-0 in the bracket, including a 20-18 win over Arizona Old School.



**Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder - Men's 60 Major Champions**

After dropping their opening bracket game, Arizona Old School rattled off three straight wins to secure its place in the championship game.

AZ Legends Suncoast finished in third place.

The 11-team Men's 60 AAA Division came down to the "if" game between top seed Big Daddy's Donuts (MO) and Omaha Silver Bullets (NE). Both team's entered bracket undefeated.

Omaha Silver Bullets used a thrilling 18-17 win over Big Daddy's Donuts in the winner's bracket final to punch its ticket in into the championship game.

After re-grouping in the third-place game with a 21-19 win over No. 2 seed Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO), Big Daddy's Donuts would go on to avenge its lone loss of the tournament with a double-dip over Omaha Silver Bullets, taking the championship (20-4) and "if" (21-11) games.

Peak Softball/Scrap Iron (CO) finished in fourth place.

In the three-team Men's 60 AA Division, Scrap Iron Rockies was able to avoid the dreaded double-dip, by coming back to win the "if" game, 29-20, over Austin Wizards (TX), after dropping the championship game, 21-19.

RECO (NE) was the third-place finisher.

The four-team Men's 65 Major Division saw Trachsel Auto Body (OR) go 3-0 in the bracket, including an 18-16 win over top seed KC Kids (MO) in the championship game.

KC Kids won back-to-back elimination games to reach the championship game, after dropping their opening game.

Scrap Iron High Octane (CO) finished third.

In the seven-team Men's 65/70 Gold Division, KC Kids 70 (MO) went 4-0 in bracket play, including a 20-7 win over top seed Peak Softball/Scrap Iron 65 (CO) in the championship game.



**KC Kids 70 (MO) - Men's 65/70 Gold Champions**

Peak Softball/Scrap Iron dropped its opening bracket game against KC Kids, and then went on a run with four straight wins to reach the championship game, and set up a rematch.

Utah Coyotes 65 finished in third place.

In the three-team Men's 65 AA Division, Duke City Dynamite (NM) went 3-0 in the bracket, including a thrilling 35-34 win over top seed Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO) in the championship game.



**Duke City Dynamite (NM) - Men's 65 AA Champions**

Orale (NM) was the third place finisher.

In the six-team Men's 70 AAA Division, Texas Rattlers went 4-0 in the bracket, capped off by a 21-14 win over Scrap Iron 5280 (CO) in the championship game.

Scrap Iron 5280 won four straight games in the elimination side of the bracket en route to their eventual runner-up finish.

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Patriots finished in third place.

The three-team Men's 70 AA Division saw yet another Scrap Iron team keep the championship trophy in-state, as top seed Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO) double-dipped Chicago Hitmen (IL), winning the championship game (27-16) and "if game (19-15).

El Paso Nine-Elevens (TX) finished third.

The Men's 75 Major Division featured a best-of-three-game series that went the distance.

In the opening game, Scrap Iron Legends (CO) cruised to a 16-5 win; while Sidewinders (AZ) returned the favor with a 21-8 win in game two, forcing the decisive third game.

In the rubber-match, Sidewinders continued its winning ways, taking home the 18-10 victory.



**Sidewinders (AZ) - Men's 75 Major Champions**

The Men's 75 AAA Division was also determined by a best of three series, with Huberd Shoe Grease Co. (AZ) sweeping Albuquerque Pipe & Pump Old Bombers (NM), by scores of 22-7 and 21-4, respectively.

In the Men's 80 Gold Division, Scrap Iron Gray Berets Base Force (CO) swept Antiques of Kansas City, by scores of 17-10 and 24-13, respectively.

## **2021 Northern Championships Host 34 Teams**

LANSING, Mich., - The 2021 Northern Championships were held here Aug. 19-22 with 34 teams in attendance, playing at Erickson Park and Lake Alliance Softball Complex.

Starting with the three-team Men's 65/70 Major Division, top seed McDowell & Sons/Drobena Builders 65 (IN) finished off a perfect tournament, going 3-0 in seeding play, and 2-0 in bracket play, including a 17-5 win over Motown Stars 65 (MI) in the championship game.

Chicago Strikers 70 finished in third place.

In the six-team Men's 65/70 Silver Division, another top seed won it all, as MP Components/Bomb Squad 65 (MI) went 3-0 in the bracket, including a 23-7 win over Blue Chips 65 (IL) in the championship game.

Shannon Fence/CPOA 65 (OH) rounded out the top three finishers.

In the three-team Men's 50/55 Platinum Division, Michigan Mafia/Showtime 50 went 3-0 in the bracket, including a 21-13 win over Lansing Legends Softball Club 50 (MI) in the championship game.

Pope Transport 55 (WI) finished in third place.

In the 12-team Men's 50/55 Gold Division, Chi-Town Ballers 50 (IL) went 4-0 in bracket play, including a 21-16 win over Bob Johnson Chevrolet/Roosters Pizza & Pub 50 (NY) in the championship game.

Bob Johnson Chevrolet/Roosters Pizza & Pub entered bracket play as the No. 11 seed after an 0-2 showing in seeding play. However, the team turned it around in bracket play with a 4-2 mark en route to their runner-up finish.

Top seed AREA 51 50s (MI) finished in third place, while Crawford Contracting 50 (MI) rounded out the top four finishers in the largest bracket of the tournament.

In the four-team Men's 55 AAA Division, top seed Crawfords (MI) polished off a perfect weekend, going 3-0 in seeding and 3-0 in bracket play, including an 18-11 win over Border Blazers (OH) in the championship game.

Buddies, Sampson, Mid-Michigan Merchants finished in third place.

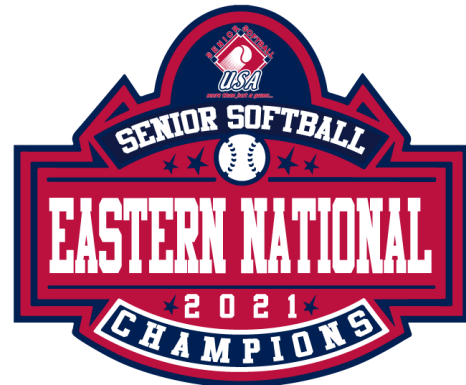
In another four-team division, the Men's 60 Major Division, the trend of top seeds winning it all continued, as top seed Doug & Don's Auto Care (MI) went 3-0 in seeding, and 3-0 in bracket play, including a 17-11 win over Chicago Prime (IL) in the championship game.

BJM Bomb Squad (IN) finished third.

The Men's 60 AAA Division featured a best of three series between DC Connection (MI) and Michigan Merchants.

DC Connection would go on to sweep the series by scores of 21-19 and 17-9, respectively.

## **2021 Eastern National Championships Close Out with Men's 40 Division**



LOUDOUN COUNTY, Va. – The 2021 Eastern National Championships officially concluded here, Aug. 21-22, with 22 teams in the Men's 40 division taking the field at Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park and Potomack Lakes Sportsplex.

The Men's 50-80 and Women's Divisions played July 27 to Aug. 1, also in Loudoun County.

To read the recap from the earlier sessions that appeared in the previous newsletter, please [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#).

Starting off with the 14-team Men's 40 Platinum Division, DDA Nation (FL) posted a perfect 5-0 record on the weekend to claim the top prize, and its place in the U.S. National Championship Game at the Worlds.

The team went 2-0 in seeding play, earning the No. 3 seed in bracket, and continued its strong play running the bracket with a 5-0 record, including a 20-5 win over No. 8 seed Y'All Next (MD) in the championship game.

Top seed True North/Shin Biscuits/Potomac Sports (MD) finished in third place following three straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket. PA Legends rounded out the top four finishers.

Spirits West/SMC (MD), the lone Major Plus team, earned the berth to the U.S. National Championship Game at the Worlds for their respective division.

In the eight-team Men's 40 AAA Division, top seed Autism Pride (MD) came out of the elimination side of the bracket to double-dip previously undefeated, and No. 2 seed, Rough Ryders (MD).

Autism Pride won back-to-back one-run nail-biters, taking the championship game, 14-13, and "if" game, 19-18. The tournament victory gives Autism Pride a spot in the U.S. National Championship Game at the Worlds.

Rough Ryders defeated Autism Pride earlier in the bracket, 17-6.

Past Our Prime (VA) finished in third place, while Black Kings (MD) rounded out the top four finishers.

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