

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 17

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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To: Info At Senior Softball <info@SeniorSoftball.com>



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WE WANT YOU! 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 tournsport@aol.com or phone (623) 776-3525.

From the Dugout: Enjoy the Game



By Terry Hennessy
SSUSA CEO

This season has been historically uncertain and led to a strong sense of loss of normal life for many of us.

It takes a toll ... until we step on the field.

When I played in the recent Western Nationals, the empty ballfields came to life as we smelled the grass, joked with teammates and listened to the beloved sound of the bat hitting the ball. It's not just the game; it's the atmosphere of serious, but friendly, competition and comradery of our teammates and our opponents.

This year, most leagues and many tournaments have been cancelled.

WMC Sessions 1 & 2 in St. George; Session 1 Back to 4 Days



SSUSA received notification last week that the Clark County fields in Las Vegas would be closed for the first three sessions of the World Masters Championships (WMC) because of the latest COVID-19 protocols established by the Nevada governor.

Fortunately, St. George, Utah, offered their fields for the first two sessions (Men's 55-60 divisions from Sept. 17-21 and Men's 65-85 divisions from Sept. 21-23).

SSUSA is currently working on alternative fields for the third session (Men's and Women's 40s divisions from Sept. 25-27). The St. George fields were not available for the third session.

The fourth session of the WMC (Men's and *Women's 50s) is still on track for Las Vegas from Oct. 1-4. *Women's 50s start on Oct. 2.

The late huge influx of Men's 55/60 teams over the first few days of this week has forced SSUSA to expand the first session in St. George back to the original 4 days: Thursday-Sunday, Sept. 17-20.

"We were blindsided by the influx of teams for the first session," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. "We had about 65 teams entered last Friday and by Tuesday of this week there were 130 teams, with 1: teams on the waiting list."

"We apologize for the significant inconvenience caused by shifting from 4 days to 3 days and back to 4 days, but was the only way to accommodate most of the teams."

Entry deadline for the first session is today (Thursday, Aug. 20). The second session deadline is Monday, Aug. 24. There is currently a waiting list for the second session.

But when we do get to play, it is pure joy – we realize just how lucky we are to be able to play a sport that draws us together in a way that goes beyond the game itself. It's the people that gives us purpose; the friends we make and the memories we create together.

While we cannot get back the lost games this season, we can fully enjoy those games we are able yet to play.

I look forward to seeing you on the field.

Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at terryh@seniorsoftball.com.

A Special Tip of the Cap to Moms



Michael Arisman and his mother Jan

When you look in the stands at a senior softball game, the last thing you expect to see is a mother cheering on her son or daughter.

However, for one SSUSA player, that is exactly the case.

"I have been involved with Scrap Iron Colorado Softball for six years," says Gregg Pearson. "Over these years, I have met some absolutely wonderful people. At each of these tournaments, I'm fortunate enough to bring my wife with me. But there is one guy that is fortunate enough to be able to bring his mother with him."

"Mike Arisman (67 years young) and his mother Jan, at a very spry and witty 84 years of age, are at all the Scrap Iron Diamond 65 tournaments," continued Pearson. "Almost every Scrap Iron player knows her simply as 'mom'. Call her mom and get a hug. For those of us who no longer have a mom on earth, it's great to see Mike take care of his the way he does. 'Mom' will chat you up with anything baseball, and if you try to

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the latest team list for Sessions 1 and 2.

If your team is not listed and plans to attend, please contact SSUSA immediately! Also, if your team is on the list and will no longer attend the tournament, please let us know as well.

The tournament page for the World Masters has been updated with hotel properties in both St. George, and Mesquite, Nev.

Because of significant delays in the US Postal Service deliveries, it is essential that teams contact us if they intend to play in ANY session of the WMC.

Please call 916-326-5303, Monday-Thursday 8 am –noon Pacific Time, or email info@seniorsoftball.com.

Roster Help for WMC

In order to help teams losing players during the pandemic, SSUSA is allowing teams to use their master roster for the World Masters Championships. All teams may use their master rosters, including teams that were not able to play in a qualifier.

Those rosters may only have three higher skill level players.

If a 40-65 year old team drops below 15 players, the team may add players in the same age and skill level to get to 15 players.

If a 70-85 year old team drops below 16 players, the team may add players in the same age and skill level to get to 16 players.

In addition, teams can add two (2) players from out of their region if they are in the same age/skill level this season.

After the entry deadline, teams cannot add players that would change their rating.

Four Major Championships Highlight Month of August



Beautiful skies above the 2020 Western National Championships

SSUSA put on four major championship tournaments in August, as Texas, Utah, Michigan and Florida hosted a combined 261 teams.

Western National Championships

The largest tournament, so far this year, was the Western National Championships, with a record 147 teams competing in St. George, Aug. 11-16.

The tournament, which was set to originally take place July 28 – Aug. 2 in Sacramento, was moved to Utah due to COVID-19 restrictions still in place in the Golden State, and replaced the Spring World Championships.

The move snapped a seven-year run of the tournament being held in Sacramento/Placer counties. The last time the tournament was not held in California was in 2012, when Aurora, Colo., hosted the Western Nationals.

Battling high temperatures in the triple digits, 31 teams went on to take the first step toward the Triple Grand Slam by earning a spot in the U.S. National Championship game, which will take place during the World Master Championships.

Highlighting the first session was Top Gun Elite (CA), who won six straight games in the elimination side of the bracket, to take home the Men's 65 Major Championship.

get under her skin, she will give you a polite reminder to watch your P's and Q's."

"I started having my Mom come along with me to games shortly after my Dad passed away in order to give her some kind of activity and get her out of the house," said Arisman. "She has been able to attend almost every Scrap Iron tournament for the last 10 years or so."

"Thanks to SSUSA and the many teams of the Colorado Scrap Iron Organization, she has certainly found a family of awesome people," continued Arisman. "She really gets into each game, as she posts each inning's score in her little notebook. Many times we will run into other Scrap Iron teams that are playing at the same fields as us, and it's great to see how excited she gets when she sees the other players. They all know her as 'Mom' and they always have a hug for each other! It is truly a blessing to be involved with the Scrap Iron organization and SSUSA. When SSUSA says 'It's more than just a game!', you better believe it. It's one big family!"

Getting Tested; My COVID Experience

By Mike Sisavic
Manager of Git-R-Done 80

Last night (8/13), I returned home from a four-day trip that involved a visit to the Portland airport, a plane ride to Vegas, a walk through the airport, a visit to the car rental terminal, driving to St. George, Utah, and checking into a hotel.

Then, I participated in a softball tournament with about 600-800 participants. There were about 20 teammates and spouses. We wore masks except when on defense and played five games over three days.

The softball complex had many players (hundreds) and we waved and walked among them. I had about 15 meals with players with or without masks.

Then I returned to Portland after a four-hour wait at the Vegas airport.

I'm sure you got the picture – quite a lot of active contacts with potential carriers. Not surprisingly, Irene (wife) had told me that I needed to quarantine myself for 10-14 days after the trip. I had

The second session also featured a Cinderella run, as Michael's Automotive Group (WA) won five straight elimination games, including double-dipping Alliance/Scrap Iron (CO).

Battleborn NV/Asurea won the largest bracket of the tournament, the 20-team Men's 50 Platinum Division, going 5 0.

On the Women's side, Hafta Play (CA), 40 AAA; Old School (CA), 50 Major; and Old Nasty Curves (CA), AAA, were all winners.

For complete game-by-game scores, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Git-R-Done (CA) - Men's 80 AAA Champions



Old School (CA) - Women's 50 Major Champions

Texas State Championships

Moving to the Lone Star State, 46 teams competed in Grapevine at the Texas State Championships, Aug. 4-9.

The tournament was originally scheduled for April 28 – May 3, but was rescheduled due to the pandemic.

Champions were crowned in nine divisions.

Tournament Highlights:

Vivid/Easton (TX) won the competitive eight-team Men's 50 Major Division, coming out of the elimination side of the bracket to double-dip ManCave (TX).

In the Men's 50 AA Division, Team LBK (TX) also came out of the elimination bracket to double-dip previous unbeaten Softball Rehab (TX).

In the Men's 65/70 Gold Division, Texas Thunder 65 avoided the dreaded double-dip to defeat San Antonio Silver Streaks 70 (TX) in the "if" game, after dropping the championship game.

The seven-team Men's 70/75 Gold Division featured a full six-game round robin to determine the champion. US Patriots (OK) posted a perfect 6-0 record to claim the championship.

For complete game-by-game scores, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Northern Championships

Heading up north to the Great Lakes State, the Northern Championships in Lansing featured 38 teams, playing Aug 13-16.

Champions were crowned in nine divisions.

Tournament Highlights:

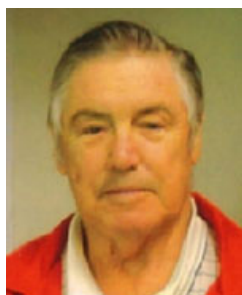
heard horror stories about getting tests – availability, long wait times, and waiting 2-10 days for results.

But then I checked the internet and was surprised that I had so many alternatives.

Bottom Line: I got an appointment for the exact time I wanted. I was tested at 8 a.m. today (8/14) and got the results in 30 minutes via email: Negative.

I can sleep with Irene tonight.

OBITUARIES - 8/20/20



Charles "Chuck" Towne

Chuck Towne, 83, of Houston, Tex., died on Aug. 9.

Towne was inducted into the Texas Senior Softball Hall of Fame in 2004, and in 2015, was inducted into the Senior Softball-USA International Hall of Fame in the Manager Category.

Additionally, Towne was heavily involved in the Harris County Senior Softball League for 27 years, as a player, manager and board member.

Towne's senior softball career spans over three decades, beginning with the Houston Texans 50s. During that time, Towne's teams won various national and regional championships, including the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championship in 2015 with his Texas Classics 80s team.

Along with playing stateside, Towne was a global ambassador for senior softball. From 1994-2015, Towne participated in 21 international tours, competing in 21 countries. He also managed seven of those international teams.

Towne spent most of his overseas tours in Japan, competing for the Japanese National Championship on eight occasions, winning three times (2000, 2001 and 2010). To

The six-team Men's 55 Major Division featured a pair of thrillers in the championship and "if" games.

Coming out of the elimination side of the bracket, Larry's Tire/Neuman Data (MI) edged out a 29-28 victory in the championship game over Aurora Tap House (IL), forcing the "if" game.

In the deciding game, Aurora Tap House returned the favor with a one-run victory of their own, 21-20.

In the Men's 65 AA Division, Indy Fog (IN) won a hard-fought best-of-three series against Shannon Fence/CPO/ (OH) that went the distance.

Midwest Titans (IN), Men's 50 Major; Gray Ghost (IL), Men's 50 AAA; and Ohio Hitmen, Men's 55 AAA all were undefeated in their respective brackets.

Michigan Merchants double-dipped Pet Supplies Plus (MI) in the Men's 60 AAA Division.

For complete game-by-game scores, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Spring National Championships

Finally, heading back down south to the Sunshine State, the Spring National Championships in Polk County hosted 30 teams, Aug. 14-16.

The Spring Nationals were originally scheduled for March 20-22, but was rescheduled due to the pandemic.

Champions were crowned in eight divisions.

Tournament Highlights:

Suncoast/Adidas/Shades (FL) double-dipped S2S (FL) in the Men's 50 Platinum Division.

In the six-team Men's 50 AAA Division, A.D.S/Woodlawn Hitting Club (FL) won five straight games after dropping their opening bracket game, including a double-dip of Silver Rays (FL).

Kelleher/LeMay/Blue Mountain (FL), 55 Major Plus; Florida Automated Shade 60 (FL), Men's 55/60 Gold Division; Venom 70 (FL), Men's 60/65/70 Gold Division; and Venom 75 (FL), Men's 70/75 Gold Division were all winners.

Kryptonite Miken/Worth (FL), Women's 40 Major, and BAGS (FL) Women's 50 AAA, were the winners on the Women's side.

For complete game-by-game scores, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Along with these four major championships, other smaller qualifiers also took place this month, including the Milwaukee Classic (Wisconsin), Kansas City Classic (Missouri), and Cool Country Classic (Arizona).

Upcoming Qualifiers

This weekend, two qualifiers are scheduled, as the Rochester 10,000 Lakes Classic (Minnesota) and the Wayne Gilmore Memorial (Maryland), will take place.

These are the last two qualifiers scheduled before the World Masters Championships.

Correction in 2020 ISA Senior World Series Recap

In the last newsletter, Lowe Legends (OH) was incorrectly stated as winning the 50 AAA division at the 2020 ISA Senior World Series. However, 615 Senior Softball (TN) was the winner.

Please read below the corrected recap for the 50 AAA Division.

50 AAA Division: In bracket play in this nine-team division, Crawford Contracting (MI), the #8 seed, took on Area 5 (MI), the #9 seed. Crawford won 27-16 and advanced to play 615 Senior Softball (TN), the #1 seed. Crawford upset the #1 seed 16-15. Legacy (KY) then beat Alpha Dawgs/Dayton Legends (OH), 14-13, while Lowe Legends (OH) beat Senior Dogs (MO) 8-6, and Ironwood (KY) beat Circle City Playmakers (IN) 11-8. Crawford and Legacy met in the second round of the winner's bracket where Legacy won 5-4 and Lowe won over Ironwood 14-7. In the winner's bracket final, Lowe beat Legacy 8-4 to advance to the Championship game.

In the elimination side of the bracket, top seed 615 Senior Softball dropped its second straight game in the three game guarantee bracket, 17-11, against Circle City Playmakers. Facing elimination the rest of the way, 615 Senior Softball proved its worth as the #1 seed, mounting an incredible run, winning seven straight games to take home the

go with his team accolades, Towne also collected various personal awards such as Best Offensive Player and MVP.

Towne's last international championship victory was in 2013 at the Pacific Rim Championships in Beijing, China.

"I've played with Chuck in more countries than I can count, including for several years in Japan," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer. "He not only had one of the finest softball minds, but was an exceptionally talented player.

"He was the best possible combination of skill and social grace in our international competitions," continued Hennessy. "As a result, he helped generate a love for the sport in other countries, because they were so impressed with his love and mastery of the game."



Greg Pellegrini

Greg Pellegrini, 52, of Tacoma, Wash., died on Aug. 16 in St. George, UT.

Pellegrini was in Utah playing with Washington Legends in the 20-team Men's 50 Platinum Division at the Western National Championships. He also played with the team in 2019.

"Greg was a great friend to all ages of the softball community, from seniors to the youngsters," said Jack Orewiler, manager of Washington Legends. "He was always there to lend a hand to his fellow players, whether it was hitting advice, breaking in your bat, or restringing your glove. A few powerful BP hits from Pelle would get your bat game ready in a heartbeat!" One of the best hitters in the game! His presence and stature at the tournaments, along with his constant positive banter with opponents and teammates, will be missed for

championship.

Riding the wave of four straight wins to reach the third place game, 615 Senior Softball defeated Legacy, 13-9, to punch their ticket into the championship game.

Building off of their momentum of a fifth straight win, 615 Senior Softball continued its high with a double dip of Low Legends, winning the championship game (12-4) and the "if" game (6-5) in a thriller.

2020 Eastern/Western Champions

Congratulations to the 2020 Eastern and Western Champions, who will be representing their respective region in the U.S. National Championship Game at the 2020 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

Teams without an opponent will automatically earn the U.S. National Championship.

Teams that win the Eastern/Western Championship, the U.S. National Championship, and the World Master Championship, complete the elusive Triple Grand Slam.

Age Division	Eastern Champ	Western Champ
Women's 40 Major	Kryptonite (FL)	NONE
Women's 40 AAA	Firestyx (NJ)	Hafta Play (CA)
Women's 50 Major	Unfazed (VA)	Old School (CA)
Women's 50 AAA	Lew's Crew/Exceeding Expectations (MD)	Old Nasty Curves (CA)
Men's 40 Major Plus	LB/Spirits West/SMC (MD)	LCP/Prestige (CA)
Men's 40 Major	PA Posse/SNC Sports	TEAM F1RST (CA)
Men's 40 AAA	CBD/True North Remodeling (MD)	NONE
Men's 50 Major Plus	NONE	Team Joose/J.K. Inc (CA)
Men's 50 Major	Hard Hat Café/Latella (CT)	Battleborn/Asurea (NV)
Men's 50 AAA	Daytona Beach Boyz (FL)	805's PE Class (CA)
Men's 50 AA	NONE	Team Panthers (UT)
Men's 55 Major Plus	Ohio Elite	San Antonio Softball Club (TX)
Men's 55 Major	Ameriprise FL Legends	WPI/Wilson Auto (ID)
Men's 55 AAA	Finance of America (NJ)	Michael's Automotive Group (WA)
Men's 55 AA	NONE	Spin Tees (WA)
Men's 60 Major Plus	Omega IT Services (MD)	LPC/Dudley (CA)
Men's 60 Major	Chicago Prime (IL)	Vegas Elite (NV)
Men's 60 AAA	High Street Bucs (MD)	Sidewinders (AZ)
Men's 60 AA	NoVa Storm (VA)	Full Throttle (AZ)
Men's 65 Major Plus	Hollis Appraisals (FL)	Timberworks/Adidas (CA)
Men's 65 Major	New Jersey Hitmen	Top Gun Elite (CA)
Men's 65 AAA	NONE	Cut Loose (CA)
Men's 65 AA	NONE	Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO)
Men's 70 Major Plus	Venom (FL) / Superior Senior Softball (VA)*	OMEN (CA)
Men's 70 Major	NONE	Sidewinders (AZ)
Men's 70 AAA	NONE	Scrap Iron 5280 (CO)
Men's 70 AA	NONE	Franklin Loan Center (CA)
Men's 75 Major Plus	NONE	OMEN (CA)
Men's 75 Major	Venom (FL)	Tharaldson's (NV)
Men's 75 AAA	NONE	Arizona Outlaws
Men's 80 Major Plus	NONE	Top Gun Gold (CA)
Men's 80 Major	NONE	Scrap Iron Gray Berets (CO)
Men's 80 AAA	NONE	Git-R-Done (CA)

*In the Men's 70 Major Plus Division, Venom and Superior Senior Softball will play each other in seeding to determine the East Champion. Winner will go on to play West Champion OMEN in the U.S. National Championship game.

sure.”

Pellegrini played with PDX Pride/Red Stone Realty earlier this season at the Winter World Championships in November in Phoenix, and also previously played with Northwest Softball/Worth (2018) and Stark St. Pizza/Four Seasons/DeMarini (2017).

From 2010 to 2016, Pellegrini played in the Men's 40 Division with NW Legends Miller/Coors, Aldercrest Auto/KnuckleHead Softball, Boomtime USA, NorthWest Legends, and Enviro-Vac.

“Greg was the most intensive personality on the field during his time,” said Jeff Colwell, teammate. “Everyone who played against Greg knew he liked to try and get into your head. He lived for softball, for the relationships, and would help out anyone he could.”

“Greg had a passion for helping those in need,” continued Colwell. “He was known for helping friends in need, and especially known for helping those he didn't know, but he knew needed help. He had such a strong spirit and big heart. He was embraced as family by many. His passion for softball was huge and his desire to help his teammates understand the game and become better players was always a priority. Greg was very talkative during his play on the field. Many know him from his many one liners he chirped at you, whether you're a teammate or the opposing team. He felt it his obligation to let you know!!”

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