

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 16

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Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 16

Aug. 6, 2020 - In This Issue:

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National Director Don Brooks Inducted Into SSUSA Hall of Fame

OBITUARIES - 8/6/20



Mother Nature interrupted the Eastern National Championships (left photo) and the ISA Senior World Series (right photo) this past weekend. A big thank you to the field crews in both Loudoun County, VA and Columbus, IN for all of their hard work to get the tournaments in.

SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS SUMMER 2020 EDITION

The SSUSA Magazine - Summer Edition - was published on July 21.

If you haven't read it yet, please **CLICK HERE**.

Some the major news items include:

- All 2020 Qualifier & 2020 TOC Winners Will Earn a Berth to the 2021 TOC
- Hardship Requests for the 2020 World Masters Championships
- National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2019 - 2020

2020 Southwest Championships Cancelled; World Masters Championships Remain on as Scheduled



Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) and the Las Vegas Senior

Senior Softball NEWS
SUMMER 2020 EDITION Volume 33 • Number 2
MORE THAN JUST A GAME

Major Updates Announced for Remainder of 2020 Senior Softball Season

All Qualifier, 2020
TOC Winners Earn
2021 TOC Berth

Softball News Report
SACRAMENTO – The surging COVID-19 pandemic continues to force changes in the senior softball season. After tournaments and leagues were cancelled in March, April and May, the sport has started sporadically in June and July.

As of the middle of July, a few tournaments throughout the nation have been played and several have been cancelled. "We are planning to hold several tournaments in August and throughout the rest of 2020," said Terry Hennessy, Senior Softball USA's chief executive officer. "However, we are at the mercy of state and local health officials – who are making decisions based on the spread of the pandemic."

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Action photo from the 2019 Eastern National Championships. Winners of the Eastern and Western National Championships take the first step towards the Triple Grand Slam.

NSSHOF Inducts 24 in 2019-2020 Class

Dave Dowell Inducted in Director Category



Photo by Jack Eberhard
Dave Dowell at the 2019
Tournament of Champions

Softball News Report
MUSTANG, Okla. – Following a hiatus last year, 24 members of the Senior Softball community recently received the call of a lifetime, endorsement into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF).

The joint 2019-2020 NSSHOF Class includes two pioneer managers, two managers, eight pioneer players,

11 players and one director. One of the managers is from Canada, another had a 700 winning percentage; the pioneer players had more than 160 years of superb experience and the players inducted have won scores of All World, All American and All-Tournament honors.

The lone director is no stranger to Senior Softball.

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2020 Women's World Cup Series
Update
Page 4
Play in Two or More Qualifiers - \$200 Off Entry Fee
Play in Three or More Qualifiers - Free Entry

Softball Association (LVSSA) has reluctantly announced the cancellation of the 2020 Southwest Championships, scheduled for Aug. 28-30.

SSUSA and LVSSA are still planning to hold the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas from Sept. 17-Oct. 4, 2020.

Other recent tournament news includes the Western Nationals, which will now be held entirely in the state of Utah, at complexes in St. George, Santa Clara, and Hurricane. Fields in Mesquite, NV, which were being used for overflow, will not be open in time for the tournament, causing the reshuffling of the Westerns.

With the calendar now turned to August, three SSUSA qualifiers are on tap this week with the Texas State Championships (Aug. 4-9), Milwaukee Classic (Aug. 6-9) and Kansas City Classic (Aug. 6-9).

The action continues next week with the Western National Championships (Aug. 11 – 16), Northern Championships (Aug. 13-16), Spring National Championships (Aug. 14-16), and the Cool Country Classic (Aug. 14-16).

National Director Don Brooks Inducted Into SSUSA Hall of Fame



Don Brooks

LOUDOUN COUNTY, VA – Senior Softball USA (SSUSA) National Director Don

2020 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships and Eastern National Championships Headline July Slate of SSUSA Tournaments



2020 Eastern National Championships

Despite cancellations of major SSUSA regional championships (Northeast and Midwest Championships) and various other qualifiers, the month of July was a busy one, with nine qualifiers taking place across the country, including two major tournaments.

Brooks was officially inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame, here during the 2020 Eastern National Championships, July 28 – Aug. 2.

Brooks was inducted in the Director Category. The Class of 2020 also includes Tom Admundson (Player Category) and Dave Sommerville (Sponsor Category).

The induction ceremony was originally scheduled to take place later this year during the annual convention in December in Sacramento. However, due to the pandemic, the convention has been postponed for 2020, and will be held in 2021 in Sacramento.

Brooks is SSUSA's longest tenured Tournament Director, running his first SSUSA tournament in 1989 as a tournament director in Maryland. He established the Crabtown Classic, which is annually held in Glen Burnie.

Brooks would later relocate to El Paso, Tex., in 2000 and then was promoted to National Director in 2001.

He has been the Tournament Director for several of SSUSA's premier tournaments, including the Eastern Nationals, Texas State Championships, and Winter World Championships. Brooks also serves on the SSUSA National Rules Committee.

"When we need a leader for a major tournament, Don Brooks is always at the top of the list," said Terry Hennessy, CEO of SSUSA. "Don represents the best of the sport, with his honesty, integrity and dedication. I count myself very lucky to know Don and count him as a very good friend."

"Don Brooks has been a very special mentor and friend to me for many years," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA Executive Director. "I am so thankful that he is my friend and I have been incredibly lucky to have learned so much from him."

Brooks currently runs the Chili Pepper Classic in El Paso.

Brooks spent 20 years in the military serving in the Navy, where he also played

JIM SHERMAN MEMORIAL/NORTHWEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

Starting in the Pacific Northwest, 56 teams in the Men's 40 – 75 age divisions competed in the annual Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships in Salem, Ore., July 14 – 19.

SSUSA would like to thank all teams for their patience and compliance with the added pandemic rules, such as no spectators inside the complex, and wearing of masks while on the field of play.

Session 1 Results

Session 2 Results

EASTERN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Moving cross country to the Mid-Atlantic area, the annual Eastern National Championships took place July 28 – Aug. 2 in Loudoun County, VA with 72 teams in action.

The tournament hit a road block the week leading up to the tournament, as numerous teams from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut were forced to bow out following decisions by the Governors of those respective states adding Virginia to their list of travel restricted states.

The New York, New Jersey and Connecticut governors added Virginia to their "quarantine" states, meaning anyone returning from Virginia to any of their three states would have to quarantine for 14 days.

During the second session, rain halted play during the opening day of games on Friday, causing the eventual cancelation of seeding games for the Men's 40 – 60 divisions. The Women's division, which began on Saturday, was unaffected.

With a "blind-draw" used to seed the brackets, tournament play continued on Saturday and into Sunday.

Tournament Results

Congratulations to all teams who secured the first step towards the Triple Grand Slam by earning a spot in the USA National Championship Game, which will take place during the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

The Eastern Champs will take on the Western Champs in the USA Game.

fast pitch softball.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Brooks began his career as a recreation supervisor in Annapolis, Md., retiring after 24 years.

OBITUARIES - 8/6/20



Guy Grasso with his family during 2013 SSUSA HOF Induction Ceremony

Guy Grasso, 88, of Henderson, Nev., died on July 26.

Grasso was elected into the Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Hall of Fame in 2013 in the Player Category. His induction ceremony took place at the 2013 Southwest Championships.

A New Jersey native, Grasso earned a baseball scholarship to Stetson University and signed with the New York Yankees as a pitcher in September 1951.

Following a stint in the Army from 1952-54, Grasso spent five seasons (1954-58) within the Yankees farm system. He played with the Binghamton, Norfolk, Birmingham, and Sioux City affiliates.

After hurting his arm, Grasso became a fireman and eventually got back in the game with softball in 1985.

Grasso made his mark in senior softball winning world championships with the So Cal Knights, D-99, Texas Classics and Center for Sight. He last played SSUSA in 2017 with Jimmy's Legends 85 and Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80.

During most of senior softball career,

REGIONAL QUALIFIERS

Other qualifiers in the month included the Maryland Classic, which replaced the cancelled Northeast Champs, Aggieland Classic, Bobby Chapp Memorial, Quad Cities Classic, Bert Bennett Memorial, Midwest Qualifier (Wes Weddle Classic), and Smash It Sports Invite.

Results for the **Maryland Classic**, **Aggieland Classic**, **Bert Bennett Memorial** and **Midwest Qualifier** have been posted on the respective tournament pages.

Congratulations to all of the winners.

SSUSA thanks all its teams for their continued support and participation through this current time.

2020 ISA Senior World Series



By Melissa Maiel
ISA Assistant Director

COLUMBUS, IND. - The 2020 ISA Senior World Series was once again held here, with 41 teams from nine different states battling for a world title.

Major rain delays on the first two days of the event forced modifications to game times. But thanks to the support of a superb grounds crew and the patience of all the participants, teams were able to play every scheduled game.

The 2020 ISA Senior World was held in memory of Jerry Jackson, who was inducted into both ISA and SSUSA Halls of Fame. Jerry was a mentor, leader, and friend to so many of us on and off the field. He will never be forgotten, but will be missed!

50 Major Division: Seven teams played a two-seed round robin into a three-game guarantee bracket.

Grasso played with one kidney, had three major knee surgeries (including two new knees), a hip replacement and an implantable heart defibrillator, and diabetes.

Guy played in six international tours and was known as one of the most powerful hitters in each age group within which he competed.

"Both Guy and his wife Barb, who died a short time ago, were very good friends," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA CEO. They will be remembered by scores of international players and wives who shared adventures through the better part of a decade in tournaments in several countries."



Nolan Spencer

Nolan Spencer, 67, of Cathedral City, Calif., died on July 22 due to COVID-19.

Spencer began playing SSUSA in 2007 with SoCal Knights 50, and most recently played with Top Gun Elite 65 in 2019. He's also played with Over the Edge, Fountain Valley Outlaws, Desert Dawgs, Top Gun 55, Top Gun III, Top Gun Thunder, and Titans.

Spencer excelled on the field earning various All-Tournament accolades, including at the 2011 Spring World Champs, 2012 Spring Worlds and Southwest Champs, 2013 Southwest Champs, and 2014 TOC.

In the first round of bracket play, 5th seeded LS/AMR (IN) took on the 4th seed ChiTown Assault/T2/Dyna (IL) and won 11-9 and advanced to face the #1 seeded Midwest Titans (IN). CT Vipers/Miken (IL), the 6th seed took on the #3 seed Big Hurt/Draft Picks (IL). Big Hurt advanced with a score of 13-11. The #2 seed, 50 Degrees (MO) took on Gem City Softball (OH), who won 17-11. The #1 seeded Titans faced AMR and won 13-8 to advance to the winner bracket final. Big Hurt and Gem City faced off and with a score of 16-11, Big Hurt advanced to the winner bracket final. Titans won 11-7 leaving them undefeated in the Championship game.

Meanwhile in the elimination bracket, 50 Degrees won a series of games to advance to the third place game, where they beat Big Hurt 15-0.

In the Championship game, the Titans continued their winning streak with a score of 15-7 and claimed the World Title.

50 AAA Division: In bracket play in this nine-team division, Crawford Contracting (MI), the #8 seed, took on Area 51 (MI), the #9 seed. Crawford won 27-16 and advanced to play 615 Senior Softball (TN), the #1 seed. Crawford beat 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 meet in the second round of the winner's bracket where Legacy won 5-4 and Lowes won over Ironwood 14-7. In the winner bracket final, Lowe beat Legacy 8-4 to advance to the Championship game.

In the elimination bracket, 615 Senior Softball lost its first game, before winning five straight games to advance to the championship game. With a score of 13-9, 615 won its sixth straight game to force an "IF" game against Lowe Legends. In the "IF" game, Lowe took home the title with a 6-5 win.

55 Major: This nine team division featured teams from seven states.

The first game of bracket play was between the #8 seed, Derby City (KY) and the #9 seed, 1 Under Craft Bear/Eats (MI), with 1 Under winning 21-19. In the second round, Monster Softball (TN) beat 1 Under 16-13, Aurora Tap House (IL) beat K&I (IN) 13-11, Pope Transport (MI) beat Circle City Playmakers (IN) 8-5, and Dudley Lightning (MO) beat Doug & Dons Auto Care (MI) 10-6. Aurora and Monster faced off in the third round where Aurora won 19-14. Dudley and Pope also advanced where Dudley won 14-8. Facing off in the winners bracket final was Dudley and Aurora, where Dudley claimed the spot in the Championship game with a score of 13-5.



Ed Andrews

Ed Andrews, 71, of Telluride, CO, died on July 21 from cancer in Ocala, Fla, where he had been receiving treatment.

Well known in senior softball, Andrews was a rep for Dudley, Reebok, and Adidas, where he would be seen at major tournaments in Colorado, Nevada, and Florida selling bats.

Andrews last played in 2019 with the PDC Yankees. His lengthy senior softball resume includes teams from both coasts, such as Florida Mavericks, Old A's, AZ Ancient, Enviro-Vac Marauder, High Desert Roadrunners, Rocky Mountain Extreme, Timberworks Construction, Scrap Iron Diamonds, Scrap Iron 65 Classics, One Time, Florida Merchants, AZ Rangers, Desperados, and Scrap Iron/Phiten, among others.



Roosevelt Jerrels

Roosevelt Jerrels, 88, of Costa Mesa, Calif., died on June 4.

In the elimination bracket, Aurora Tap House beat Monster Softball, 14-13, in the third place game to advance to the championship game.

In the Championship game, with a score of 14-11, Dudley claimed this year's title over Aurora Tap House.

55/60 Platinum Division: The 55/60 Platinum division consisted of nine teams; Texas Crush Sixties, Windy City Softball (IL), Central Illinois Chiefs 60 (IL), Chicago Panthers (IL), Clean Planet (MI), Dudley Lightning MW (MO), Louisville Sr. Sluggers (KY), CPOA CLE/No Ohio Print, and Team Illinois 55's. Teams played two seed games, mixed divisions into a three-game guaranteed bracket.

55 AAA: CPOA and Team Illinois broke off into a best of three game series. CPOA won the first game 16-8 and the Championship game 13-5 claiming the 2020 title.

60 Major Plus: Texas Crush and Windy City also broke off to play a best of 3 game series after seed play. Crush won the first game 16-9 and also the Championship game 16-3 crowning them the 2020 Champions.

60 Major: In the first round of bracket play, the #4 seeded Sluggers were set to play the #5 seeded Panthers who were forced to withdraw from the tournament. So the Sluggers advanced to face the #1 seed, Clean Planet. Clean Planet won 8-6. The #2 seeded Chiefs lost to the #3 seeded Dudley 15-8. Facing off in the winners bracket final was Dudley and Clean Planet. Dudley won 12-6 and advanced to the Championship game.

Meanwhile in the losers bracket, the Chiefs fell to the Sluggers 18-7. Then Clean Planet took out the Sluggers 16-12 to force a rematch in the Championship game. Clean Planet won the Championship game with a score of 12-6 to force the "IF" game. But Dudley caught a second wind and won with a score of 16-6.

60/65 AAA Division: This mixed division consisted of seven teams; Champaign Softball (IL), Cincinnati 60's (OH), Michigan Merchants, Playmakers (WI), (By) Grace Redeemed (TN), Chicago Prime 65's (IL), and MP Comp./Bomb Squad (MI). These teams played a mixed 3 game seed into a 2 game guarantee bracket.

60 AAA: In the first round of bracket play Champaign, the #1 seed took on the Merchants, the #4 seed and won 21-20. The #2 seeded Playmakers took on Cincinnati, the #3 seed, where Cincinnati won with a score of 19-16. Champaign then took on Cincinnati and won the winners bracket final with a score of 10-6.

In the first round of the loser's bracket, the Merchants won over the Playmakers 20-13. The Merchants also won over Cincinnati 7-5. They faced off with Champaign in the

Jerrels most recently played with Top Gun 80 Gold in 2019. He also played a number of years with Fairway Ford, as well as Joeseppi's and Top Gun Jets.

Over his career, Jerrels earned numerous All-Tournament honors, including at the 2010 Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup, the 2014 Spring World, Southwest, and Western National Championships, and the 2016 Spring World Championships.

Championship game but fell to the undefeated team 13-4.

65 AAA: The second seed Chicago Prime team faced #3 seeded Bomb Squad and won 8-3. Prime advanced to face the #1 seed, By Grace and won 14-7. By Grace fell to the losers bracket and beat Bomb Squad, 14-4, forcing a rematch with Prime. In the Championship game, Chicago Prime won over By Grace with a score of 9-3 claiming the 2020 title.

In Memorium

Jane Schwartz, wife of SSUSA member Ron Schwartz, died on June 20.

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