

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 20

Senior Softball-USA <info@seniorsoftball.com>

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Sept. 17, 2020 - In This Issue:

Two States Host 2020 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships

Cool Country Classic II Recap

World Softball Brotherhood Supporting Efforts in Latin America

OBITUARIES - September 2020



The Canyon's Complex in St. George, UT will be one of four complexes used during the first two sessions of the 2020 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

World Softball Brotherhood Supporting Efforts in Latin America



Question: What do you do when you can't play ball because of a pandemic?
Answer: You fight the pandemic!

Two States Host 2020 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships



SACRAMENTO – The 9th annual LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships will have a much different feel to it this year.

Due to the continued shutdown in Nevada from the COVID-19 pandemic, this will be the first time that the joint LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships (which began in 2012) will not be held in Las Vegas.

Instead, the WMC will relocate to the neighboring states of Utah (St.

Tulio Ontiveros, Co-Director of SSUSA's Caribbean Classic Recreational Tournament, had plans to start up the first senior slow pitch league in his native Venezuela. He had a financial sponsor lined up, and the first 13-week season was projected to begin in August 2020. Then came the Covid-19 pandemic, forcing Ontiveros to put his league debut on hold. Rather than sitting back and waiting, he decided to take direct action against the pandemic.

"I have created a charity I call the World Softball Brotherhood," he explains. "Our purpose is to raise money for economically sensitive communities that have no resources to buy or replace at least one effective mask." And he isn't limiting his efforts to Venezuela.

"In my years of creating and running softball tournaments throughout Latin America," he says, "I have developed trusted relationships in Venezuela, Dominican Republic (where the Caribbean Classic takes place), Nicaragua and Panama. My contacts know where the need for masks is greatest."

Studies have proven that face masks are one of the most effective tools available to stop the spread of the virus that causes Covid-19.

Ontiveros pledges that "all money donated will be used to buy the facial masks in the USA or in each country, where it best works, to be shipped and delivered."

SSUSA players, families and friends who wish to donate

George) and Arizona (Kingman, Mesa and Glendale).

Arizona (Phoenix) was previously a long-time host of the World Championships prior to the partnership with LVSSA and the creation of the World Masters Championships – which has become the largest slow-pitch softball tournament of any age group in the nation.

For three straight years – 2017-2019 – the WMC has attracted more than 600 teams. Tournament officials had originally forecast about half the teams – 300 – for the 2020 WMC because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, the tournament is now expected to draw close to 450* teams.

There are 316 teams scheduled for the first three sessions: Men's 55 – 85 / Men's & Women's 40. *The deadline for the fourth session (Men's and Women's 50 Divisions) has been extended to **Oct. 8**, due to the change in dates to **Oct. 29 – Nov. 1**, so there won't be a final count until after that last deadline.

Session I

Men's 55 & 60 (136 Teams)
St. George, UT (Sept. 17 – 20)

The 2020 World Masters Championships officially kicks-off today, Thursday, Sept. 17 in St. George, UT, with the opening session - Men's 55 and 60 age divisions.

A total of 136 teams representing 26 states will play across eight divisions on four complexes.

Seven U.S. National Championship Games will highlight the first session:

Men's 55 Major Plus: San Antonio Softball Club (TX) vs. Ohio Elite/R Sports
Men's 55 Major: WPI/Wilson Auto (ID) vs. Ameriprise Florida Legends
Men's 55 AAA: Michael's Automotive Group (WA) vs. Old Stars (IN)
Men's 60 Major Plus: LPC/Dudley (CA) vs. Omega IT Services, LLC (VA)
Men's 60 Major: Vegas Elite (NV) vs. Chicago Prime (IL)
Men's 60 AAA: Sidewinders (AZ) vs. Vecter Scorpions (FL)
Men's 60 AA: Full Throttle (AZ) vs. NoVa Storm (VA)

The largest division of the first session is the 31-team Men's 55 AAA Division.

Session II

Men's 65 – 85 (95 Teams)
St. George, UT (Sept. 21 – 23)

The World Masters Championships continues in St. George with session two on Monday, Sept. 21, as the elder statesmen of the game – the Men's 65 – 85 age divisions, take the field.

should make their check or money order payable to World Softball Brotherhood. The mailing address is C/O Jim Goff, 5113 Amesbury Drive, Davenport, IA 52807. Jim is the other Co-Director of the Caribbean Classic tournament.

“Many communities require our help,” Ontiveros says, “and as softball brothers we can provide what is necessary to prevent contagion.”

OBITUARIES - September 2020



Mark J. Canegallo

Mark Canegallo, 69, of Springfield, Mass., died on Sept. 9.

Canegallo was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2009 in the Player Category.

Here's an excerpt from Canegallo's Hall of Fame induction:

Affectionately called "Boo" (short for Buddha), Mark Canegallo is one of senior

A total of 95 teams representing 22 states will play across 13 divisions on four complexes.

Three U.S. National Championship Games highlight the second session:

Men's 65 Major: Top Gun Elite (CA) vs. New Jersey Hitmen

Men's 70 Major Plus: OMEN (CA) vs. Venom (FL)

Men's 75 Major: Tharaldson's (NV) vs. Venom (FL)

The largest division of the second session will be the 18-team Men's 65 Major Division.

Every game counts in the Men's 75 Major (6 teams), 75 Silver (7 teams), and 80/85 Gold (6 games) divisions, as a full round robin will be used to determine the champion.

Michael Smieja, 91, member of ProHealth Care (MN), the lone 85-year-old team in the WMC, is the oldest competitor in the tournament.

Session III

Men's & Women's 40 (85 Teams)

Kingman, AZ (Sept. 25 – 27)

After seven straight days (Sept. 17 – 23) in St. George, SSUSA Directors, UIC's, and Umpires will travel 230 miles south to Kingman, AZ, where the Men's and Women's 40's Divisions will get their turn at bat starting Sept. 25.

A total of 85 teams representing 16 states will play across five divisions on two complexes.

Two U.S. National Championship Games highlight the third session:

Men's 40 Major Plus: LCP/Prestige Softball (CA) vs. LB/Spirits West/SMC (MD)

Women's 40 AAA: Hafta Play (CA) vs. Firestyx (NJ)

The largest division of the third session is the 36-team Men's 40 Major Division.

The City of Kingman has placed specific rules and regulations on its facilities.

Please [**CLICK HERE**](#) to read them.

Session IV

Men's & Women's 50

Mesa/Glendale, AZ (Oct. 29 – Nov. 1)

Entry Deadline – October 8

Oct. 29 - Nov. 1: Men's 50 Major and AAA Divisions (Mesa)

Oct. 30 - Nov. 1: Men's 50 Major-Plus, Men's 50 AA and Women's Divisions (Glendale)

softball's most prolific home run hitters. Boo not only hits many home runs, he hits some of the longest home runs in senior softball, an accomplishment that creates a sense of awe among opponents all over the country. A main cog in the success of his teams, at 6' 4" and 270 pounds, Boo presents a formidable presence and plays as large as his physical dimensions. His true value is his intensity and a desire to win that, more often than not, results in victory.

In SSUSA, Canegallo was a long-time member of Connecticut SportsPlex, last playing in 2013.

He earned All-Tournament honors at the 2012 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships, where Connecticut SportsPlex won the U.S. National Championship Game, while finishing runner-up in the eight-team Men's 55 Major Plus Division.

He also played with Bay State Bombers Plus, East Coast Softball, Thermco and Florida Sluggers.

While playing in SPA, Canegallo earned Best Defense and All-American honors in 2006 and 2008, respectively. He was also listed as a 2012 SPA Impact Player.

In his younger days, Canegallo helped lead his team, Pierce Construction, to victory at the 1991 USSSA Class B World Series, earning MVP honors.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read an article from 2011, celebrating

50s Managers, please be sure to contact the SSUSA office to get your team in for the tournament. The team list is posted on the tournament page. **[CLICK HERE](#)**.

If your team can no longer attend, please also be sure to inform us.

You can contact the SSUSA office at any time via email at info@seniorsoftball.com. You can reach the SSUSA office via phone (916-326-5303) Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am – Noon (Pacific).



12th Annual LVSSA Bullhead City Fall Classic

The Las Vegas Senior Softball Association (LVSSA) will be hosting its 12th Annual Bullhead City Fall Classic, Oct. 30 - Nov. 8, at Bullhead City Rotary Park in Bullhead City, AZ.

When the fourth session of the World Masters Championships for the 50 division was forced to move to the Phoenix area, it fell on the same dates as The Fall Classic. Fortunately, only the 50 division is playing in the WMC, so SSUSA and LVSSA are urging other age divisions to grab the chance to play in Bullhead City.

Men's teams, **[CLICK HERE](#)** to register.

Women's teams, **[CLICK HERE](#)** to register.

Cool Country Classic II Recap

After hosting two qualifiers in February to start the 2020 season, Arizona State Director Rick Seifman was forced to cancel a total of six qualifiers that were scheduled in May, June, July, and August due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

Seifman eventually got teams back on the field with the Cool County Classic II, Aug. 15-16, in Prescott at Mount Valley Park.

[CLICK HERE](#) for results.

For interested teams, Seifman will host a recreation tournament Oct. 17-18 in Phoenix. Email tournsport@aol.com for more information.

the 20 year anniversary.

Contact Information:
Senior Softball USA
9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12
916-326-5303
info@seniorsoftball.com

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Senior Softball-USA | 9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12, Sacramento, CA 95827