

Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 25

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Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 25

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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) 776-2143.

Fast Reaction Saves Umpire's Life

PHOENIX – Quick action by a Senior Softball director, player and spectator saved the life of SSUSA Umpire Tracy Farmer, who collapsed with a heart attack and stopped breathing during the 50 Major division World Championships here last weekend.

Tracy Farmer was officiating a 50 Major game and walking toward the third base dugout at Papago Park when he collapsed.

Immediately calls for 911 went out, and SSUSA Director Mike Hula and Umpire in Charge Bill Medved converged on the scene with the defibrillator and first aid

107 Teams Compete in Session 4 of SSWC; Old School (CA) Completes Triple Grand Slam



PHOENIX, Ariz. – The Senior Softball World Championships

pack.

Donnie Hudson, a player from the Stadium team from California was talking to and attempting to confirm that Farmer was still breathing, and aware of his surroundings. Wendy Smith, at the tournament with Lighthouse Lookouts from Georgia, was helping Hudson.

Hula took charge.

"I began by verifying with Donnie that Tracy had an open airway and then began checking for a pulse in the carotid artery and I found it to be weak, but still pulsing," said Hula. "However, within 10 to 15 seconds Tracy's started to convulse, his eyes rolled back and his breathing stopped and I lost the pulse."

"We removed his upper body clothing and Donnie started CPR while, I took the defibrillator and began to open up the pads and place them in the proper positions, then we waited for the machine to verify the need to shock, cleared everyone near Tracy, and I applied the current to restart Tracy's heart," said Hula. "After the initial shock, and within a few seconds he opened his eyes and took a deep breath."

"Donnie and I talked with him to confirm he was better and waited there till the EMTs arrived," said Hula.

Tracy Farmer had surgery a few days later and on Wednesday flew home with his son to Tumwater, Wash.



(SSWC) officially concluded here in Glendale and Mesa, Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, with the Men's and Women's 50s Divisions playing in the fourth and final session.

A total of 107 teams representing 28 states competed across six divisions.

The fourth session was highlighted by two U.S. National Championship games, as well as Old School (CA) capturing the Triple Grand Slam title in the Women's 50 Major Division.

For Old School, this marks the team's third straight Triple Grand Slam crown.

Due to the pandemic that forced the relocation of the tournament, the 2020 SSWC was held in six cities in two states (St. George and Santa Clara, UT, and Kingman, Glendale, Mesa and Phoenix, AZ). Overall, 422 teams played over 1,350 games on 10 complexes.

If you missed the recaps of the previous three sessions, please click the links below:

[Session 1 Recap \(Men's 55 and 60\)](#)

[Session 2 Recap \(Men's 65 - 85\)](#)

[Session 3 Recap \(Men's & Women's 40\)](#)

The Men's 50 Major and AAA Divisions began the final session on Oct. 29.

Men's 50 Major (40 Teams)

The 40-team Men's 50 Major Division featured a U.S. National Game, as Hard Hat Café/Latella's (CT) downed Battleborn/Asurea (NV), 30-18.

Completing step two of the Triple Grand Slam, Hard Hat Café/Latella's fell short of the trifecta, going 2-2 in bracket play, being eliminated on Saturday.

Two teams reached Championship Sunday unscathed and in the driver's seat, as Stadium (CA) and CPD/Ancell (MN) each won their first four bracket games to advance to the final day. CPD/Ancell knocked off Stadium 22-19 to punch its ticket into the championship game.

Eight teams in total played on the final day, as Miken Franchise (MO), Hitters Inc (VA), Hara's/SIS (OR), Battleborn/Asurea, Walker Brothers (AL), and Lighthouse Lookouts/Athletic Shop (GA) rounded out the other six.

Hitters Inc made a strong push through the elimination side of the bracket, winning four straight games, including a 21-18 win over CPD/Ancell in the championship game, forcing the decisive "if" game.

Mike Hula



Donnie Hudson and Wendy Smith

COVID Cases Update – Session 4 SSWC

SACRAMENTO – SSUSA was recently informed of four positive cases of COVID-19 from session four of the Senior Softball World Championships.

The positive cases came from two teams - a Men's 50 AAA team from Massachusetts and a Men's 50 Major Plus team from Florida.

Overall, there have been 29 reported positive cases across all four sessions of the 2020 SSWC, which attracted 422 teams and almost 10,000 players and family members.

Along with the recent four cases from session four, the other reported cases from the previous three sessions included:

- Two players and a friend from a 60AA Colorado team.
- Five members of a 60 AA Oklahoma team.
- A pitcher from a 60AA team from Nevada.
- A player from a 60 Major team from Minnesota.
- A player, his wife, and daughter from a 55AAA Southern California team.
- Seven players and the coach of 55 and 60 Major-Plus teams from Texas. The initial player became ill on the second

In the final game, CPD/Ancel avoided the dreaded double-dip, winning the "if" game, 24-20.

Stadium finished in third place, while Hara's/SIS rounded out the top four teams.

Miken Franchise and Lighthouse Lookouts/Athletic Shop tied for fifth.

Men's 50 AAA (47 Teams)



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KIKU Imports/MY Buddies (MA) batter looks to drive home some runs in the championship game of the Men's 50 AAA Division

In the 47-team Men's 50 AAA Division, Daytona Beach Boyz (FL) defeated 805's PE Class (CA) 19-12 in the U.S. National Championship Game.

The Daytona Beach Boyz would eventually fall short of the overall Triple Grand Slam, finishing in a tie for fifth place.

On the final day of play, four teams reached Championship Sunday with unblemished records – Senior Dogs (MO), Scrap Iron Mile High Hitmen (CO), KIKU Imports/MY Buddies (MA) and Arizona Old School.

Eight teams overall reached the final day of play, as the U.S. National Game participants, Daytona Beach Boyz and 805's PE Class, along with Bad Attitude (CA), and Viejos So Cal (CA) rounded out the elimination side of the bracket.

Of the four unbeaten teams, KIKU Imports/MY Buddies continued their run, going 3-0 on Sunday, including a thrilling 16-15 win over Scrap Iron Mile High Hitmen in the Championship game.

day of play. That player was being hospitalized with pneumonia and later released.

- A player from a 65 Major team from Nevada.
- A player from a 65 Major-Plus team from California.
- A player from a 65 AAA Oklahoma team.
- A player from a 65 AA Oklahoma team.
- A player from 75 AAA team from Arizona.

Unfortunately, SSUSA is sad to report that one of the members of the Men's 60 AA team from Oklahoma that had tested positive has died.

Colonel Charlie Don Thigpen, 61, of Edmond, OK, died on Oct. 22.

The 2020 season was Thigpen's first year playing SSUSA.

As a member of OKC RedHawks, Thigpen played in the Missouri Open, Oil City Classic and the Senior Softball World Championships.

"Charlie was a leader, a real fireball, always gave 110%, a true winner," said Mike Armstrong, manager of OKC RedHawks. "You won't encounter people like Charlie, and his wife Lisa but few times in your life!"

Thigpen tallied a 32 year a career with the United States Postal Service, holding the title of US Postal Inspector for the majority of his career.

Additionally, Thigpen spent 36 years in the United States Air Force. Colonel Thigpen served in Operation Desert Storm in 1990.

Thigpen graduated with his undergraduate degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1988. Following his bachelor's degree, Colonel Thigpen graduated with a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Oklahoma in 1996.

Overall, KIKU Imports/MY Buddies polished off a perfect tournament, going 2-0 in seeding and 6-0 in bracket play.

805 PE Class was the third place finisher, while Senior Dogs finished in fourth place.

Along with Daytona Beach Boyz, Arizona Old School was the other fifth place finisher.

Honorable mention goes to Viejos So Cal, who got off on the wrong foot, but was able to right the ship and get into the elite eight.

The team began the tournament going 0-2 in seeding, and then 0-2 to start off bracket play.

Facing elimination in their third game of the bracket, Viejos So Cal rattled off five straight wins, before eventually being eliminated on Sunday by 805's PE Class.

The Men's 50 Major Plus and AA Divisions, and Women's 50s Divisions began play on Oct. 30.

Men's 50 Major Plus (8 Teams)



Deluxe Bakery (NJ) pitcher looking for the strikeout in the third-place game in the Men's 50 Major Plus Division.

In the eight-team Men's 50 Major Plus Division, Suncoast/Adidas/Shades (FL) posted a perfect 4-0 record in bracket play, including a 33-17 win over Fattboyz/Prestige/Elite (CA) in the championship game.

Top seed Deluxe Bakery (NJ) finished in third place, while J.K. Inc (CA), the default U.S. National Champion, rounded out the top four finishers.

Men's 50 AA (5 Teams)



Colonel Charlie Thigpen
(1959-2020)

OBITUARIES - 11/6/20



Mark A. Davis

Mark Davis, 65, of Palmer, Mass., died on Oct. 23.

Davis last played in 2018 with Bay State Bombers 60. He was a long-time member of Hannington/Bay State Bombers 55 and 60.

He began playing SSUSA in 2011.

"Mark, or 'Woody' as he was affectionately known, enjoyed a long and successful softball career, including his stint in senior softball with the Baystate Bombers," said Curt Snow, who played with Mark on the Hannington/Bay State Bombers teams.

"He was on the Bombers teams that won a Triple Grand Slam (2011), many USA Championships and TOCs, as well as regional and local tournaments. He was



All-In Softball (IL) batter looks to drive one into the gap in the championship game of the Men's 50 AAA Division

In the five-team Men's 50 AA Division, All-In Softball (IL) edged out Manifest (TX), 18-17, in the championship game.

The win capped off a perfect 3-0 showing in bracket play for All-In Softball.

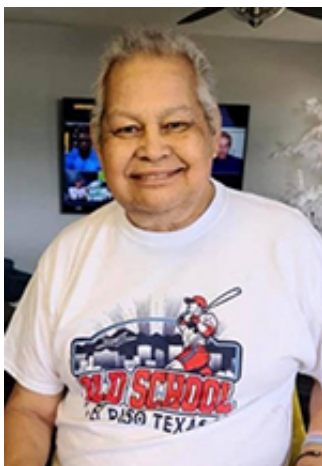
Goats (MD) finished in third place, while Softball Rehab (TX) claimed fourth place.

Team Panthers (UT) was the default U.S. National Champion.

CLICK HERE for game-by-game scores in the Men's 50's Divisions.

Women's 50 Major (4 Teams)

elected MVP and All Tourney countless times. A talented defensive player anywhere in the infield, he was also a prolific hitter with power. Ever the smiling, good natured gentleman, he was a pleasure to team and travel with. His spirit will endure."



Manuel "Manny" Flores, Jr.

Manny Flores, 67, of El Paso, Tex., died on Oct. 30 from cancer.

"I've had the pleasure of knowing Manny for 15 years," said Don Brooks, SSUSA national director. "Not only for his involvement in the El Paso Old School program, but also as a stalwart member of the El Paso Chili Pepper Sports Association, and his tireless efforts to make the annual Chili Pepper Classic a success. I, as well as others, will miss his friendship and positive attitude."

Flores was a long-time member and manager of El Paso Old School 50, 55, and 60. He was also a coach with the El Paso Bad Boys.

Flores held a successful career as an entrepreneur and logistics manager for more than 40 years. He was active in his retirement, which included his strong passion for playing/coaching softball.



Old School (CA) batter looks to get a rally going in the championship game of the Women's 50 Major Division.

In the four-team Women's 50 Major Division, Old School (CA) took home the eventual Triple Grand Slam by double-dipping Stix With Impact (CA) by scores of 13-8 and 16-13 in the championship and "if" games, respectively.

Stix With Impact defeated Old School earlier in the bracket, 13-7.

Takin' Chances (CA) finished in third place, while On Fire/Afoa Insurance (CA) finished fourth.

Women's 50 AAA (3 Teams)



GoFetch (CA) runner comes home to score in the championship game of the Women's 50 AAA Division.

In the three-team Women's 50 AAA Division, top seed GoFetch (CA) defeated NW Lady Warriors/Miken (WA), 15-14, and Southern Girls (TX) 17-12 to take on the



Dan Davis

Dan Davis, 69, of Oshkosh, Wis., died on Nov. 3.

Davis was a long-time member of the Oshkosh Ambassadors 55, 60 and 65 teams. He was the manager of the 65s team at the time of his passing. Davis also served as a board member of Oshkosh Ambassadors Senior Softball.

Davis was a member of the Oshkosh Ambassadors 60 team that won the AA Division at the World Championships in 2017.



Jim McVeigh

Jim McVeigh, 82, of Casa Grande, AZ, recently died following a long-time bout with leukemia.

McVeigh began playing SSUSA in 2012. He most recently played with Scrap Iron Gray Berets 80's (2017-2019). McVeigh was also a member of Scrap Iron Reds and Scrap Iron Force 70 (2012-2013) and Scrap Iron 75 (2013-2014).

championship.

Southern Girls was the runner-up, while NW Lady Warriors/Miken finished third.

CLICK HERE for game-by-game scores in the Women's 50's Divisions

East Bests West, 10-4, in U.S. National Championship Games

Fourteen U.S. National Championship Games were held during the 2020 Senior Softball World Championships (SSWC).

The U.S. National Championship Game is the second leg of the Triple Grand Slam and takes place during seeding play at the SSWC, pitting the winners of the Eastern National Championships against the winners of the Western National Championships.

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

Because the U.S. National Game is a guaranteed seven-inning game, the winner earns the top seed in bracket play, while the loser takes the second seed.

Overall, teams from the East held a commanding 10-4 advantage over their Western counterparts in the games in 2020.

U.S. National Championship Game Results

Session 1

Men's 55 Major Plus

San Antonio Softball Club (TX) def. Ohio Elite/R Sports, 37-32

Men's 55 Major

Ameriprise Florida Legends def. WPI/Wilson Auto (ID), 16-15

Men's 55 AAA

Michael's Automotive Group (WA) def. Old Stars (IN), 19-8

Men's 60 Major Plus

LPC/Dudley (CA) def. Omega IT Services, LLC (VA), 24-8

Men's 60 Major

Chicago Prime (IL) def. Vegas Elite (NV), 16-11

"He was a good man," said Fred Mattos, manager of Scrap Iron Gray Berets. "It was a pleasure knowing him. May he rest in peace."

Men's 60 AAA
Vecter Scorpions (FL) def. Sidewinders (AZ), 20-19

Men's 60 AA
Full Throttle (AZ) def. NoVa Storm (VA), 27-21

Session 2

Men's 65 Major
New Jersey Hitmen def. Top Gun Elite (CA), 21-20

Men's 70 Major Plus
Venom (FL) def. OMEN (CA), 17-13

Men's 75 Major
Venom (FL) def. Tharaldson's (NV), 21-17

Session 3

Men's 40 Major Plus
LB/Spirits West/SMC (MD) def. LCP/Prestige Softball (CA), 37-35

Women's 40 AAA
Firestyx (NJ) def. Hafta Play (CA), 10-9

Session 4

Men's 50 Major
Hard Hat Cafe/Latella's (CT) def. Battleborn/Asurea (NV), 30-18

Men's 50 AAA
Daytona Beach Boyz (FL) def. 805's PE Class (CA), 19-12

Final Standings - 2020 Senior Softball World Championships (SSWC)

Below are the final standings (top 4) from the 2020 Senior Softball World Championships (SSWC)

Congratulations to all winners!

SESSION 1

Men's 55 Major Plus (9 teams)

- 1. Sommerville Softball (CA) - TOC**
- 2. San Antonio Softball Club (TX) – U.S. National Champ**
3. Kelleher Firm/LeMay/Blue Mountain (FL)
4. Ohio Elite/R Sports

Men's 55 Major (25 teams)

- 1. Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder (CO) – TOC**
2. Pope Transport (WI)
3. Vandals (CA)
4. Bad Seed (CA)
- *Ameriprise FL Legends - U.S. National Champ**

Men's 55 AAA (31 teams)

1. Michael's Automotive Group – TOC / Triple Grand Slam

2. Bond 1234/OSS/Phil's Painting (MA)
3. Trachsel Auto Body (OR)
4. Old Stars (IN)

Men's 55 AA (4 teams)

1. So Cal Riptide (CA) – TOC

2. Arizona Blaze
3. **Spin Tees (WA) - U.S. National Champ (default)**
4. Morris Clark Roofing & Siding (WA)

Men's 60 Major Plus (4 teams)

1. LPC/Dudley (CA) – TOC / Triple Grand Slam

2. Omega IT Services, LLC (VA)
3. Texas Crush Sixties
4. Samurai (CA)

Men's 60 Major (20 teams)

1. Minnesota Merchants – TOC

2. **Chicago Prime (IL) – U.S. National Champ**
3. Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder (CO)
4. Arizona Elite

Men's 60 AAA (27 teams)

1. 50 Caliber Silver St. Louis (MO) – TOC

2. Weekend Warriors (CA)
3. Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (CO)
4. **Vecter Scorpions (FL) – U.S. National Champ**

Men's 60 AA (16 teams)

1. Texas Legends – TOC

2. **Full Throttle (AZ) – U.S. National Champ**
3. Buck Run Farms (NE)
4. MN Lumberjacks

SESSION 2

Men's 65 Major Plus (3 teams)

1. Timberworks/Adidas (CA) – TOC / Triple Grand Slam

2. Minnesota Masters/Ancell
3. Arizona Ancient

Men's 65 Major (18 teams)

1. Top Gun Elite (CA) – TOC

2. BlueSpeed AV (MO)
3. Ted Todd Insurance (FL)
4. KC Kids (MO)
- ***New Jersey Hitmen – U.S. National Champ**

Men's 65 AAA (17 teams)

1. North Idaho Softball Club (MT) – TOC

2. Team Texas San Antonio
3. Chicago Prime (IL)
4. **Cut Loose (CA) – U.S. National Champ (Default)**

Men's 65 AA (8 teams)

1. **Bags Softball (IA) – TOC**
2. Oklahoma Street Outlaws
3. **Scrap Iron Diamonds (CO) – U.S. National Champ (Default)**
4. Duke City Dynamite (NM)

Men's 70 Major Plus (2 teams)

1. **OMEN (CA) – TOC**
2. **Venom (FL) – U.S. National Champ**

Men's 70 Major (8 teams)

1. **Animals (CA) – TOC**
2. **Sidewinders (AZ) – U.S. National Champ (Default)**
3. So Cal Guys
4. San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX)

Men's 70 AAA (11 teams)

1. **Codgers/BCT (ID) – TOC**
2. USA Patriots (OK)
3. **Scrap Iron 5280 (CO) – U.S. National Champ (Default)**
4. Relentless (TX)

Men's 70 AA (5 teams)

1. **Valley Fog (CA) – TOC**
2. **Franklin Loan Center (CA) – U.S. National Champ (Default)**
3. STL Vision (MO)
4. California Oaks

Men's 75 Major Plus (2 teams)

1. **OMEN (CA) – TOC / Triple Grand Slam**
2. Sidewinders (AZ)

Men's 75 Major (5 teams)

1. **Venom (FL) – TOC / Triple Grand Slam**
2. Tharaldon's (NV)
3. Tri-State Diamondbacks (NM)
4. Las Vegas Coyotes (NV)

Men's 75 Silver (7 teams)

1. **St. George Raptors (UT) – TOC**
2. Minnesota Masters
3. **Arizona Outlaws – U.S. National Champion (Default)**
4. Chicago Gray Sox (IL)

Men's 80/85 Gold (6 teams)

1. **Git-R-Done 80 (CA) – Triple Grand Slam**
2. ProHealth Care 80 (WI)
3. ProHealth Care 85 (MN)
4. Redwood City Gold Rush (CA)

Men's 80 Platinum (2 teams)

1. **Top Gun 80 Gold (CA)**
2. Scrap Iron Gray Berets (CO)

SESSION 3

Men's 40 Major Plus (11 teams)

- 1. LB/Spirits West/SMC (MD) – TOC / Triple Grand Slam**
2. Prestige Elite/Orange Co. (CA)
3. Suncoast Adidas 40's (FL)
4. LCP/Prestige Softball (CA)

Men's 40 Major (36 teams)

- 1. K&B Beverage/AG Painting (AZ) – TOC**
2. Blue Pill Mafia/QOS Networks (AZ)
3. Midwest Stars/Rhino Roofing (KS)
- 4. TEAM F1RST (CA) – U.S. National Champion (Default)**

Men's 40 AAA (16 teams)

- 1. Above & Beyond Plumbing (CA) – TOC**
2. Gigantes O.C. 40 (MD)
3. Potomac Sports 40 (MD)
4. Rough Ryders/Miken (MD)
- * CBD/True North Remodeling (MD) – U.S. National Champion (Default)**

Women's 40 Major (6 teams)

- 1. Kryptonite Miken/Worth (FL) – TOC / U.S. National Champion (Default)**
2. TABU 40's (CA)
3. Broken Dollz (CA)
4. Fun Bunch 40's (CA)

Women's 40 AAA (16 teams)

- 1. Tharaldson Softball (NV) – TOC**
2. Hafta Play (CA)
3. Firestarter Oldies (WA)
4. Saints (CA)
- * Firestyx (NJ) – TOC – U.S. National Champion**

SESSION 4

Men's 50 Major Plus (8 teams)

- 1. Suncoast/Adidas/Shades 50's (FL) - TOC**
2. Fattboyz/Prestige/Elite (CA)
3. Deluxe Bakery (NJ)
- 4. J.K., Inc. 50 (NV) - U.S. National Champ (Default)**

Men's 50 Major (40 teams)

- 1. CPD / Ancell 50's (MN) – TOC**
2. Hitters, Inc. (VA)
3. Stadium (CA)
4. Hara's/SIS 50 (OR)
- * U.S. National Champ – Hard Hat Cafe/Latella's (CT)**

Men's 50 AAA (47 teams)

- 1. KIKU Imports/MY Buddies (MA) – TOC**
2. Scrap Iron Mile High Hitmen (CO)
3. 805's PE Class (CA)
4. Senior Dogs (MO)
- * U.S. National Champ – Daytona Beach Boyz (FL)**

Men's 50 AA (5 teams)

- 1. All-In Softball (IL) – TOC**

2. Manifest 50's (TX)
3. Goats (MD)
4. Softball Rehab 50 (TX)

*** U.S. National Champ (Default) – Team Panthers (UT)**

Women's 50 Major (4 teams)

1. Old School (CA) – TOC / Triple Grand Slam

2. Stix With Impact (CA)
3. Takin' Chances (CA)
4. OnFire/Afoa Insurance (CA)

Women's 50 AAA (3 teams)

1. GoFetch (CA) – TOC

2. Southern Girls (TX)
3. NW Lady Warriors/Miken (WA)

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