

# Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 6, Edition 26

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SSUSA Wishes Everyone a Great Upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday!

### From the Dugout: Challenging Times



**By Terry Hennessy  
SSUSA CEO**

PHOENIX – The Winter Worlds being played here now is perhaps the most challenging tournament in an extremely challenging year.

The first session of the older group (65-85) is concluding today (Thursday) and the second younger group (40-60) begins tomorrow (Friday). I'm playing in the 70 AAA division.

So far in the first group, one 75 AAA player

### Winter National Championships Battle Through Tropical Storm Eta



**CenturyLink Sports Complex Softball Fields**

FT. MYERS/NAPLES, Fla. – The 2020 Winter National Championships, held here, Nov. 10 – 15, featured 70 teams getting a jump start to the 2021 season.

went down and was bloodied, went to the hospital, and was found to be positive for COVID 19. The team, which had finished play when the news came through, was contacted and told they had to withdraw from the tournament and could not come to the field. The manager was very gracious and understood.

The director who treated the player also had to be relieved and went home to be tested.

So far in the second group, more than 13 teams have withdrawn since the initial schedules were posted last week. All of those teams reported one or more of their players testing positive to COVID 19 and – acting in the best interests of other teams – withdrew from the tournament.

We hope all of the players have a swift and complete recovery.

The question, especially now, is why we continue to hold tournaments in a pandemic, especially when the numbers of positive cases, hospitalizations and deaths are climbing around the country.

The answer is that we believe the nature of our outdoor sport and the protocols we have in place on the fields provide seniors with a unique experience during these times that lift their spirits and provide healthy exercise through the joy of playing softball.

Is there a risk? Of course. But, so far, we have held tournaments throughout the country for more than 20,000 senior softball players and their families. We have tracked less than 40 cases from players who attended the tournaments. Fortunately, most cases have not been serious.

This is not to downplay the danger – there is a risk. However, I believe that we need to weigh the risk with the benefits of the good that essential social interaction of senior softball provides both players and their families.

*Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at [terryh@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:terryh@seniorsoftball.com).*

The first session, Men's 65 – 85, held at CenturyLink Sports Complex in Ft. Myers, saw the effects of Tropical Storm Eta wash out Wednesday's games, causing rescheduling to some modified single-elimination bracket games on Thursday. All games on Tuesday were able to be played, despite lightning delays.

In the four-team Men's 65 Major Division, Via Citrus (FL) posted a perfect 3-0 record in bracket play, including 27-12 and 17-10 wins over top seed Slug-A-Bug (FL) in the championship and "if" games, respectively.

New Jersey Hitmen finished in third place.

In the six-team Men's 65 AAA Division, two undefeated teams met in a winner-take-all championship game.

After posting identical 2-0 records in Tuesday's seeding games, Steve Levin Ameriprise (FL) and Universal Softball Team (OH) entered Thursday's bracket games as the top two seeds.

Steve Levin Ameriprise's 14-10 win over Spring Ford (PA), and Universal Softball's thrilling 18-17 win over Studz (WI) set up the winner-take-all final.

In the final game, Universal Softball cruised to a 24-9 victory.

Studz finished in third place with a 23-14 win over Spring Ford.

The five-team Men's 70 AAA Division also featured a winner-take-all final in the championship game.

Bulls (FL) and FL Mustangs each posted a 2-0 mark in seeding to come into the bracket play as the top two seeds.

Each team won its opening bracket game to set up the decisive final game, as Bulls knocked off Long Island Jaguars White (NY) 16-8 and FL Mustangs edged out Florida Southern Force 12-11.

In the winner-take-all game, Bulls completed the perfect week with a thrilling 8-7 victory.

In the third place game, Florida Southern Force defeated LI Jaguars White 16-4.

In the two-team Men's 70 Major Division, Frankie Brinn (FL) swept Long Island Jaguars Red (NY) in a best-of-three game series, by scores of 14-11 and 18-8, respectively.

The Men's 70/75 Silver Division also featured a best of three game series, as STL Vision/Aces 70 (MO) took on Chicago Gray Sox 75.

The series went the distance as the teams exchanged wins

## 2020 Winter World Championships in Action



**Field crew at Papago Park Softball Complex hard at work.**

PHOENIX - The 2020 Winter World Championships began here on Nov. 17.

Be sure to follow the action online, with results being updated on the [tournament page](#) as scores are reported in by the on-site tournament directors.

Click on the respective age division, and be sure to refresh your page.

The Men's 65 - 85 age divisions conclude today, Thursday (11/19), and the Men's 40 - 60 and Women's Divisions will begin play tomorrow, Friday (11/20) and conclude on Sunday.

## WW II Vet & Former SSUSA Manager, Daniel B.T. Lau, Dies at 101

in the first two games. STL Vision took the opening game 16-8, while Chicago Gray Sox pulled through with a 15-14 win to even the series.

In the rubber-match, Chicago Gray Sox again squeaked out a one-run thriller, this time a 7-6 win, to take home the championship.

In another best two-out-of-three game series, Bucs & Bulls 80 (FL) swept ProHealth Care 85 (MN) by scores of 13-8 and 14-9, respectively, to take home the Men's 80/85 Gold Division.

Session two (Men's 40 – 60) was split between CenturyLink Sports Complex, and North Collier Regional Park in Naples.

The Men's 50 – 60 teams began play on Friday, while the 40s Division began on Saturday.

In the eight-team Men's 50 Gold Division, Avalon Insurance (FL) ran through the gauntlet on Championship Sunday, going 5-0, including a double-dip over Silver Rays (FL); 19-18 and 23-16, in the championship and "if" games, respectively.

Following an 0-2 showing in seeding play, PA Senior Hitmen went 2-2 in the bracket to eventually finish in third place. KB 50s/Huey Designs (KY) finished in fourth place.

The Men's 55 Major Plus Division saw the best two-out-of-three game series go the distance.

Suncoast/Adidas/Shades (FL) took game one with ease, 25-14, over Kelleher Firm/LeMay/Blue Mountain (FL); while Kelleher Firm/LeMay/Blue Mountain bounced back with a pair of one-run thrillers, 18-17 and 21-20, respectively, to win the division.

The Men's 55 Major Division also featured a best of three series that would go all three games.

RE/MAX (FL) took the opener, 14-10, over K & I 55's (IN). However, K & I bounced back to take the next two games, by scores of 23-13 and 25-22 respectively to take home the championship.

In the seven-team Men's 55 AAA Division, Ohio Hitmen posted a perfect 4-0 record in bracket play, including a 23-11 win over top seed Team Illinois in the championship game.

Following an 0-2 record in seeding and dropping its first game in the bracket, Luther Group (WI) re-grouped with three straight wins in elimination games en route to its third place finish.

In the nine-team Men's 60 Major Division, Clean Planet (MI) completed bracket play with an unblemished 4-0 record,



**Daniel B.T. Lau visits the USS Arizona Memorial during a ceremony on 12/7/15. Photo by: Wyatt Olson/Stars and Stripes**

World War II Combat Veteran Daniel B.T. Lau, 101, of Honolulu, Hawaii, died on Oct. 21.

**CLICK HERE** to read an article on Lau that appeared in the Star Advertiser on Nov. 10.

Lau was buried on Nov. 9 at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl with military honors. He received the Bronze Star for his role in the Battle of the Bulge.

Lau was stationed at Schofield Barracks on Oahu, Hawaii, at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He was assigned to the 298th Hawaiian Infantry, later part of the 25th Division, and then joined the 78th Infantry "Lightning" Division in Belgium.

Lau was a graduate of the University of Hawaii. The last surviving founder of Finance Factors, Lau was a mainstay within the Honolulu financial community.

In SSUSA, Lau was a long-time member and manager of Hawaii Seniors 80s.

"I will miss seeing Mr. Lau at the manager meetings in Las Vegas," said Fran Dowell, SSUSA Executive Director. "He always was so kind and such a big supporter of Senior Softball. His smile and his heart will be missed by many."

including a thrilling 14-13 win over top seed Via Citrus/Team Florida in the championship game.

Levin/Ameriprise (FL) was the third place finisher after winning a pair of elimination games on Sunday.

The largest division of the 2020 Winter National Championships featured the 14-team Men's 60 AAA Division.

Long Island Jaguars (NY) proved its worth as the top seed, going 6-0 on the weekend (2-0 in seeding and 4-0 in bracket play). The team cruised to an 18-7 win over RedHawk Nation (FL) in the championship game.

RedHawk Nation had won three straight elimination games to reach the championship game.

Curtis Engine (PA) finished in third place, while Vector Scorpions (FL) rounded out the top four finishers.

Big Daddy's Donuts (MO) and Cincinnati 60s (OH) were the other two teams to advance to the final day of play.

The three-team Men's 40 Division featured new comer DDA Nation (FL) go 3-0 in the bracket, including a 26-22 win over top seed Suncoast Adidas (FL) in the championship game.

Past Our Prime (VA) was the third place finisher.

**CLICK HERE** for game-by-game results (be sure to refresh your page).

## Road To World Champs Once Again Runs Through Vegas



Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) began posting its 2021 schedule today (11/19) with the numerous scheduled TOC qualifiers. Other regional qualifiers will be posted throughout

the coming weeks, with the full 2021 slate expected to be posted prior to the end of the calendar year.

With COVID-19 forcing the cancellations of numerous tournaments in 2020, teams can look to return to their usual spots in 2021, as the Spring World Championships (St. George, UT), Tidewater Classic (Virginia Beach, VA), Southwest Championships (Las Vegas), Atlantic Coast Championships (Raleigh, NC), Rock 'n Reno Challenge Cup, Northern California State Championships (Sacramento), Northeast Championships (Syracuse, NY), Midwest Championships (Rogers, AR), and Rocky Mountain Championships (Aurora, CO), among others, are all on deck.

All tournaments will again qualify teams to play in the mecca of Senior Softball events, the World Championships, in Las Vegas.

**[CLICK HERE](#)** to view the partial 2021 SSUSA tournament listing.

Managers, be sure to contact SSUSA to enter your team into any of the posted tournaments for 2021 so far.

As a reminder, we recommend managers register their teams for 2021 and build their roster for the season, prior to entering any tournaments.

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