

# Senior Softball NEWSLETTER

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Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) Newsletter: Volume 7, Edition 8

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Championship Pedigree - Brothers Sean (left) and Jason (right) Pressley were each victorious at the recent Western National Championships. Sean and his team, GTR (OR), won the Men's 40 AAA Division; while Jason and his team, Hustle (CA), won the Men's 40 Major Division.

## OFFICIAL SOFTBALL STATUS UPDATE

SSUSA has been advised that the Official STOTE/Trump Microcell™ technology softball has begun to trickle into the USA ports of entry.

Here are the near-term events that will be using that ball:

- Northern Championships (Lansing, MI) - August 19th start
- Rochester (MN) 10,000 Lakes Classic - August 20th start
- Rocky Mountain Championships (Aurora, CO) - August 20th start

Tournament that will use the A.D. Starr Tattoo ball:

- Eastern National Championships (Loudoun County, VA) Men's 40-Master's Division - August 21st start (softballs are already on site)

Currently undetermined:

(Will be the STOTE/Trump Microcell™

## Vegas Baby! The Worlds Beckon!



As the Worlds in Las Vegas fast approaches, qualifying tournaments are heating up – and setting records. The Western Nationals in California and the Eastern Nationals in Virginia combined to draw a record 247 teams – setting the stage for the largest number of USA National Games in recent memory.

Winners in the East will face the winners in the West in the USA Games in Las Vegas, which is the second stage of the Triple Grand Slam of Softball.

While rain wasn't a factor in the drought-plagued Western Nationals, it did play havoc in both the Eastern Nationals and the Midwest Championships. Fortunately, enough game were played to determine division winners.

## Western National Championships Return to Nor Cal

technology softball AND/OR BSN's The Rock)

- SSUSA World Championships (Las Vegas)

**2021 WORLD CHAMPS -  
ENTRY DEADLINES  
UPCOMING  
VIVA LAS VEGAS**



**2021 SSUSA WORLDS**

**Entry Deadlines (By Session):**

Session 1 (Men's 55 - 60): Thursday, August 19  
Session 2 (Men's 65 - 85): Monday, August 23  
Session 3 (Men's 40 / Women's 40): Friday, August 27  
Session 4 (Men's 50 / Women's 50 - 70): Friday, September 2

**Entry Fee:**  
\$795

**Dates of Play:**

Men's 55 & 60: Thursday, Sept. 16 - Sunday, Sept. 19  
Men's 65 - 85: Monday, Sept. 20 - Thursday, Sept. 23  
Men's & Women's 40: Friday, Sept. 24 - Sunday, Sept. 26  
Men's 50: Thursday, Sept. 30 - Sunday, Oct. 3  
Women's 50 - 70: Friday, Oct. 1 - Sunday, Oct. 3

**Please Note:**

Tournament entries may close **BEFORE** the stated entry deadlines above. To confirm your spot, please contact SSUSA ASAP if your team is interested in participating in the largest Senior Softball tournament in the country.

[info@seniorsoftball.com](mailto:info@seniorsoftball.com)  
916-326-5303

**\*International Co-Ed Division Update\***

Due to international travel restrictions that remain in place, the SSUSA International Co-Ed Division has been postponed for 2021. The division is planned to be held again in 2022.



**Men's 40 Major Action at Hal Barholomew Sports Park in Elk Grove**

**SACRAMENTO/PLACER COUNTY** – 140 teams flocked to Northern California, July 27-Aug. 1, to compete in the Western National Championships and start their quest for the Triple Grand Slam of softball.

It's the second straight year that the Western Nationals has hit the 140-team plateau, as a record 147 teams competed last year in St. George, Utah.

Division winners from the Western National Champs will take on division winners from the Eastern Nationals in the U.S. National Championship Game, which is played during seeding rounds at the World Championships in Las Vegas.

Teams that win the U.S. National Championship game, and the World Championships, complete the Triple Grand Slam.

The tournament began with 36 teams in the Men's 65 through 85 age divisions taking the field from July 27 to July 29. Games took place at Sacramento Softball Complex and Foscett Regional Softball Complex.

The first session of the Western Nationals was highlighted by the induction of Murray Williams, 67, of Austin, Tex., into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF) Player Category, as part of the Class of 2021.



**Murray Williams - NSSHOF Class of 2021**

Williams has earned numerous All-Tournament selections while playing with some of the top Major Plus teams - Hendricks Sports Management, Texas Crush Sixties, Enviro-Ve Marauder, Timberworks/Adidas, and Texas Crush Sixty Fives.

Starting with the three-team Men's 65/70 Major Plus division, Texas Crush Sixty Fives, led by hall of famer Williams, went 3-0 in bracket play, including a thrilling 20-19 win over Timberworks/Suncoast 70 (CA) in the championship game.

## **Tournament Lodging**

### **Reminder:**

Please be sure to book your hotel stay through the listed blocks on the [World Champs](#) tournament page.

Rates keep going up and SSUSA negotiated earlier in the year with our host hotels to lock in lower rates.

Also, room blocks are filling up quickly. SSUSA has asked for an increase in the number of rooms across the various hotel properties.

[CLICK HERE](#) for an update on various host hotels for the World Champs.

## **2021 Women's World Cup Update**



SACRAMENTO - Women's teams playing in three (3) of the below qualifiers and receive a **FREE ENTRY** into the Women's World Cup Champs, scheduled for Oct. 29-31, 2021 at Freedom Park in Valdosta, Ga.

Valdosta also is planning a Halloween costume contest and party! Stay tuned for details.

Teams that play in two will get \$100 off the entry.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a list of teams that have earned free entries already.

Teams receiving **Free Entries** will be required to post a \$100 deposit to enter, which will be refunded at the tournament.

### **2020 Tournaments:**

2019 Winter World Championships (2020 roster event)  
Spring National Championships  
Eastern National Championships  
Western National Championships  
World Championships

### **2021 Tournaments:**

2020 Winter World Championships (2021 roster event)  
Spring National Championships  
Spring World Championships  
Southwest Championships  
Rock 'n' Reno Challenge Cup  
Southern California State Championships



**Texas Crush Sixty Fives Men's 65 Major Plus Champion**

Top Gun Elite 65 (CA) rounded out the division.

In the five-team Men's 65 Major Division, Bulldogs (OR) went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 22-14 win over Nor Cal Reds in the championship game.



**Bulldogs (OR) Men's 65 Major Champion**

Nor Cal Reds bounced back from an 0-3 showing in seeding play, with a 3-2 record in bracket play, en route to their eventual runner-up finish. Both of Nor Cal Reds' losses in the bracket came against Bulldogs.

Top seed Incrediwear (CA) finished in third place.

In the six-team Men's 65 Silver Division, the top two seeds battled all the way to the "if" game.

Top seed SportStan/Islanders (HI) dropped the winner's bracket final against Yeahoos (WA), 20-7, to fall into the elimination side of the bracket.

SportStan/Islanders then edged out Cascade Thunder (OR), 21-20, in the third-place game to punch its ticket into the championship game.

After going 0-for-2 to start off bracket play, Cascade Thunder won a pair of elimination games to reach the third-place game.

In the championship game, SportStan/Islanders avenged their earlier loss with a 20-12 victory, forcing the decisive "if" game.

In the rubber-match, Yeahoos avoided the dreaded double-dip by taking the winner-take-all game, 17-15.

Midwest Championships  
Southern Championships  
Eastern National Championships  
Western National Championships

## 2021 SSUSA Convention

The 2021 SSUSA National Convention will take place Monday, November 29 - Thursday, December 2, in SSUSA's home city of Sacramento, Calif.



[CLICK HERE](#) for the Convention Agenda

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Convention Registration

[CLICK HERE](#) for Hotel Booking

### Host Hotel Information:

**Holiday Inn Sacramento  
Downtown - Arena**

300 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 446-0100

**Code: SSU**

Rate: (Subject to local/state taxes/fees)  
\$132.00/night

**Second Annual Caribbean  
Classic - Deposit Deadline Oct.  
29**



**Yeahoos (WA) Men's 65 AAA Champion**

The five-team Men's 70/75 Platinum Division would come down to the "if" game.

R&R 70s (CA) entered bracket play as the No. 4 seed, following an 0-2 showing in seeding play. The team re-grouped in the bracket, opening with three straight wins to reach the championship game.

In their only loss of the week, No. 2 seed Oregon Crabs 70 dropped a pitcher's duel, 3-2, in the winner's bracket final against R&R.

Oregon Crabs would rebound with three straight wins, including a 20-17 victory over OMEN 75 (CA), in the third place game, and a double-dip over R&R – winning the championship (19-17) and "if" (25-24) games.

In the seven-team Men's 70 AAA Division, top seed Please Don't Bug Me (CA) completed a perfect week, going 2-0 in seeding, and 3-0 in bracket play, including a 14-11 win over Nor-Cal 70s in the championship game.

Nor-Cal 70s rattled off four straight victories in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game.

Game On (CA) finished in third place.

The Men's 75 Major Division featured a best of three-game series that went the distance.

In the opening game, Scrap Iron Legends (CO) struck first with a 21-16 win over State Roofing Systems (CA).

State Roofing Systems would answer back with a 21-11 win in game two to even the series.

In the rubber-match, State Roofing Systems completed the comeback with a 12-10 victory to take the division.

The Men's 80 Major Plus Division also featured a best of three series, as San Francisco Seals (CA) swept Top Gun Gold (CA) by scores of 23-13 and 19-6, respectively.

Sacramento Buds and Triple Play played a best of three-game series for the Men's 75 Silver Division.

The series went all three games, with Sacramento Buds taking game one, 9-8, and Triple Play earning a 19-12 win in game two.

Triple Play completed the comeback with a convincing 25-8 win in the deciding game.

Lincoln Hills Coyotes swept Gold Rush in the Men's 80 AAA Division by scores of 8-5 and 14-3, respectively.

Top Gun Blue Angels 85 took the Men's 80/85 Gold Division with a 17-9 win over Git-R-Done 80 Gold.

The tournament continued on July 30 with 104 teams playing in the Men's 40 through 60, and Women's age divisions. Games were held at five complexes – Sacramento Softball Complex, Hal Bartholomew Sports Park, Foscett Regional Park, Mahany Park and Maidu Regional Park.

Starting off with the five-team Women's 40 Major Division, Utah Relics avoided the dreaded double-dip by taking the "if" game, 14-13, over top seed TABU (CA) in a nail-biter.





Senior Softball USA is pleased to announce the return of an international tournament to be held February 2022 on the beautiful island of Hispaniola.

The second annual Caribbean Classic will feature one or two SSUSA teams assembled from the USA and Canada playing against local senior softball teams from the Dominican Republic, and possibly a team from Venezuela.

SSUSA players and their guests will be staying at the Bavaró Bárcelo Palace, an all-inclusive beachfront resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

The resort has agreed to waive its usual day use fee and allow two local Dominican teams to come onto its access-controlled grounds and play against our SSUSA players on its beautiful ballfield, located just 50 yards from the beach.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the tentative itinerary.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the booking form.

[CLICK HERE](#) for a brief video of the resort, showing the various sports offered.

## OBITUARIES - 8/13/21



**Michael J. Baptista**

"Big Mike" Baptista, who was known for towering home runs and an equally towering smile and booming laugh, died July 31.

Baptista was well known on the ballfields of Northern California until a few years ago when he developed serious kidney problems. Baptista played for some of the top teams in Northern California, including



**Utah Relics Women's 40 Major Champion**

TABU defeated Utah Relics, 12-8, in the championship game to force the decisive game.

Following an 0-2 showing in seeding play, The Purge (CA) rebounded in bracket play to eventually finish in third place.

The six-team Women's 40 AAA Division also saw a team avoid the double-dip, as Still Grubbin (CA) edged out a 13-12 win in the "if" game over top seed B.O.O.B.S (CA).



**Still Grubbin' (CA) Women's 40 AAA Champion**

B.O.O.B.S knocked off Stull Grubbin, 19-8, in the championship game, to cap off a run of four straight wins. B.O.O.B.S dropped their opening bracket game against Agree Disagree, 7-6.

Agree 2 Disagree would eventually finish in third place.

In the three-team Women's 50 Gold Division, top seed Old School (CA) polished off an undefeated weekend, following its 19-12 win in the championship game over B.O.O.B.S (CA).



**Old School (CA) Women's 50 Major Champion**

NW Lady Warriors/Miken (WA) finished in third place.

Cal Energy, Roll With 2 and Wilson Trophy.

"Mike by far was the most popular Cal Energy player of all time," said Cal Energy Manager Bill Hill. "He was an original player on the Cal Energy Team when the Team changed from Wilson Trophy in 2008. Mike was an excellent First Baseman and could hit with power. He always kept the team loose and provided leadership to all the team members."

Sometimes, it takes a completely non-softball incident to capture the true humor and nature of a person.

"A few years after my divorce, Mike convinced me – and it took all of his charm to convince me – to go to a concert, because he was sure I needed to get out to non-softball places to meet people," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's CEO, who played with Baptista on Wilson Trophy. "So, I finally agreed and he asked me what I was going to wear to the concert."

"I was a bit taken aback and said, 'Well I guess one of my softball t-shirts and jeans.' He looked at me a long time and said, 'No, I'll bring you something.'"

"So, that night, he came with some friends to pick me up and brought a very stylish shirt. He said, 'Here, you need this.'"

"I still smile every time I think about it," said Hennessy.

Baptista leaves behind his wife Patty, daughter Monica, (husband Brian), daughter Maria (husband Ryan), grandchildren Isaiah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Selah, mother Mary, brothers Donnie, Johnny, Djica, sisters, Brenda, Robyn, TerryLee, Cherie, stepmother Nana.

Mike's brother, Donnie, summed it up: "My brother was always larger than life. Ever since he was young, whenever he walked into a room, the room just lit up. He has so many people who love him, both family and friends. When you were with him, he had an innate ability of making you feel as if you were the most important person in the room."

"Michael was truly an old soul, living by the old ways of our fathers & grandfathers."



David E. Christiansen

In the 15-team Men's 40 Major Division, top seed Hustle (CA) went undefeated on the weekend, going 2-0 in seeding, and 4-0 bracket, including a 16-6 win in the championship game over No. 2 seed HMR/DS Construction (CA).



Hustle (CA) - Men's 40 Major Champion

Following an 0-2 showing in seeding play, and an 0-2 start in the bracket, BPS (CA) finally got in the win column and got on a roll, winning four straight games en route to the third-place finish.

In the three-team Men's 40 AAA Division, GTR (OR) went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 19-7 win over top seed Game Over (CA) in the championship game.



GTR (40) - Men's 40 AAA Champion

NFL2G (CA) finished in third place.

The three-team Men's 50 Major Plus Division saw J.K. Inc./GTL (CA) avenge its 27-17 loss in the championship game against top seed Fattboyz/Prestige/Elite (CA), with a 21-1 win in the "if" game.

Vicious Cycle (CA) rounded out the division.

In the 13-team Men's 50 Major Division, top seed Bay Equity/Hara's/Vortex (WA) completed a flawless weekend, going 2-0 in seeding, and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 27-1 win over G.O. Softball Junkies/WEPNZ/Dss (CA) in the championship game.



Bay Equity/Hara's/Vortex (WA) Men's 50 Major Champion

David Christiansen, 75, of New Berlin, Wis., died on August 1.

A long-time member of Michael's, Christiansen last played with the 70s team during the 2017 season. He also played with Handeland Flooring and Cooney Classics, among others.

"Dave was the most loved umpire in Wisconsin Senior Softball," said Thom Mikich, Tournament Director of the Milwaukee Classic. "He was the head umpire for the Milwaukee Classic Wounded Warriors Tournament, and helped make the tournament a success, raising over \$50,000, to date, for Wounded Warriors."

"I never met a person that didn't like Dave," continued Mikich. "Field No. 1 at McCarty Park in West Allis will be named in honor of David Christiansen."

Christiansen was a Social Studies teacher for over 30 years at Milwaukee Marshall High School. He also coached baseball and basketball at the school.

#### **Daniel Scott Peterson**

Daniel Peterson, 64, of Chandler, AZ died on June 28.

Peterson was a big help to SUSSA over the years as a UIC in the Phoenix area, particularly at Papago Park Softball Complex, Mountain Vista Park, and the Scottsdale complexes.

A native of North Dakota and graduate of the University of North Dakota, Peterson lived in Chandler for more than 25 years.

Peterson was affiliated with the Southwest Umpire Association for most of his time in Arizona, heading the organization in 2016. A diligent umpire and leader, Peterson was affectionately known as the Governor.



**Mark Michael Syzdek**

Mark Syzdek, 70, of Cape Coral, FL/Washington, MI, died on June 17.

An active softball player and umpire, Syzdek

G.O. Softball Junkies/WEPNZ/Dss won three straight games in the elimination side of the bracket en route to their runner-up finish.

Battleborn (NV) finished in third place, while KM Sportz (CA) rounded out the top four finishers.

In the nine-team Men's 50 AAA Division, top seed CaliGold (CA) survived the tournament unscathed, going 2-0 in seeding play, and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 26-13 win over Calhoun/Michael's Toyota (WA) in the championship game.

West Coast Hittahs (WA) finished in third place.

In the Men's 55 Major Plus Division, Sommerville Softball (CA) swept Crush (CA) by scores of 14-7 and 16-1, respectively.



**Sommerville Softball (CA) Men's 55 Major Plus Champion**

In the 10-team Men's 55 Major Division, top seed L.A.F (CA) went unbeaten on the weekend, going 2-0 in seeding, and 4-0 in the bracket, including a 15-13 win over WPI/JayC (ID) in the championship game.

WPI/Jayco went on a run with three straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket en route to their eventual second place showing.

805 PE Class (CA) finished in third place.

In another 10-team division, the Men's 55 AAA Division, the championship would come down to the "if" game.

Escaping from the elimination side of the bracket, Desperados NMU (CA) won four straight elimination games, including the championship game, 22-17, over Wilsons (ID), to force the decisive "if" game.

In the final game, Desperados NMU ran out of gas, as Wilsons cruised to 28-9 victory.

Top seed Top Gun Phantoms (CA) finished in third place.

The Men's 60 Major Plus Division featured a best of three game series between Legacy Sports USA (AZ) and LPC/Dudley (CA).

The series would go all three games, with LPC/Dudley taking the opening game, 17-16, and Legacy Sports USA taking game two, 30-16.

In the rubber-match, Legacy Sports USA completed its comeback with a 24-12 victory.

The Men's 55/60 AA Division was also determined by a best of three game series, which would go the distance.

In the opening game, Spin Tees 55 (WA) edged out a thriller, 23-22; while Pastimers 60 (WA) evened the series with an 18-16 win in game two. In the deciding game, Spin Tee took home another one-run nail-biter, 8-7.

In the 10-team Men's 60 Major Division, the championship came down to the top two seeds, as No. 1 Vandals (CA) registered a perfect weekend, going 2-0 in seeding, and 4-0 in bracket play, including a 19-8 win over No. 2 California Energy in the championship game.

Wolfpack (WA) finished in third place.

In the 11-team Men's 60 AAA Division, top seed Lincoln Hills Coyotes (CA) recorded an unblemished 2-0 record in seeding, and 4-0 mark in the bracket, capped off by an 18-1 win over Yeahoos (WA) in the championship game.

Yeahoos had won three straight elimination games en route to their eventual runner-up finish. Hitmen/Arizona rounded out the top three finishers.

## **2021 Eastern National Championships Surpasses 100-Team Mark**



was a member of USA Softball of Metro Detroit. For his efforts, Syzdek was inducted into the USA Softball Metro Detroit Hall of Fame in the Manager Category, as part of the Class of 2020.

Syzdek was also the long-time manager of Golden Vipers 55 and Golden Vipers 60 (now Pet Supplies Plus 60).



**Michael Welch**

Mike Welch, 75, of Hermosa Beach, Calif., died on June 7.

Welch was a member of the Git-R-Done softball organization, playing on the 65, 70, and 75 teams. He also played on the Marauders 65 team.

A native of Rhode Island, Welch was a member of the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. Throughout his 24-year career in the Air Force as a Loadmaster, Welch earned numerous citations and awards for his service, which included Vietnam.

Following his military service, Welch built a 26-year career at Boeing.



**Myron Pembroke**

Myron Pembroke, 72, of Banning, Calif. died on May 12.

Pembroke began playing SSUSA in 2012 with Top Gun 60 Softball Team. He most recently played with Top Gun Olde Dawgs 70, and also played with Git-R-Done 65, So Cal Titans 55 and Base Hawks 60.



**Dave Carver, Division Manager Loudoun County Parks, Recreation & Community Services with Fran Dowell, SSUSA Executive Director**

**LOUDOUN COUNTY, Va.** – The 2021 Eastern National Championships shattered past records with 107 teams competing here this year.

A record 86 teams competed July 27 through Aug. 1, and an additional 21 teams will compete in the Men's 40s Eastern Nationals on Aug. 21-22.

All games for session one (Men's 65 - 80) took place at the Potomack Lakes Sportsplex in Sterling, with 21 teams in action.

Highlighting the first session of the Eastern Nationals was the induction of Ray Dye, 79, into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHOF).



**Ray Dye - NSSHOF Class of 2020**

Dye, part of the NSSHOF Class of 2020, was inducted into the Pioneer Player category.

Dye has a senior softball career that spans over 18 years, where he has accumulated a number of MVP and All World honors across all the major associations. He has previously been a member of Indy Fog, Chicago Classic, Direct Employers, Bucs & Bulls, Pfeiffer Auto, Canterbury Cruisers, Boca, Monkey Joe's Big Nut Co., Chadwell Supply and Venor among many others.

Currently, Dye is a member of Florida Investment Properties.

Beginning with the five-team Men's 65 Major Division, Via Citrus (FL) posted a perfect 3-0 record in bracket play, including a 25-11 win over High Street Bucs (MD).

New Jersey Hitmen finished in third place, while top seed Promotion (NJ) finished fourth.

In the four-team Men's 65 AAA Division, Talaga Construction (CT) went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 23-14 win over top seed Pill & Pill (WV).

Northern Virginia Force finished in third place.

The Men's 70 Major Plus Division featured a best of three game series between Bradford White/Jersey Masters (NJ) and Superior Senior Softball (VA).

Superior Senior Softball swept the series, by scores of 19-8 and 29-9, respectively.



He was also a member of the Menifee Valley Upper Division Senior Softball league.

"Myron passed away after playing in Top Gun Reno Tuneup Tournament in Perris, doing what he loved, playing ball," said Rick Fisher, manager of Top Gun Olde Dawgs.

"Myron was co-founder of the Top Gun Olde Dawg Softball team in Southern California and played in numerous leagues," added Fisher. "He also played for the Senior Softball USA team in Germany (2012) and Italy (2015). He will be missed."



**Kevin James Crotts**

Kevin Crotts, 51, of Denton, Md., died on April 9.

Crotts had recently begun playing SSUSA, joining Team RG Insurance 40 in 2020. He was set to play with the team again in 2021.

Crotts had a passion for softball and enjoyed spending his weekends batting with his teammates.



**Ralph J. Santos**

Ralph Santos, 77, of Apple Valley, Calif., died on Feb. 23.

Santos was long time member of the Git-R-Done organization, playing on the 55s, 60s, 65s, 70s, 75s, and this season, with the 80s.

"It was very unexpected," said George Scully, former teammate, on Santos' passing. "He was a great player, a great friend, and great man!"



**Superior Senior Softball (VA) - Men's 70 Major Plus Champion**

The Men's 70/75 Platinum Division was also a best of three series, with Venom 75 (FL) sweeping High Street Bucs 70 (MD) by scores of 17-9 and 17-8, respectively.

In the three-team Men's 70 AAA Division, top seed Jersey Masters Red went unbeaten the bracket, going 2-0 with a 10-6 win over Northern Virginia Force, and a 12-8 victor over Syracuse Cyclones in the championship game.



**Jersey Masters Red - Men's 70 AAA Champion**

The Men's 75/80 Platinum Division featured AMR South and Florida Investment Properties playing a best of three.

AMR South swept the series, by scores of 14-6 and 25-15.

The tournament continued with the second session on July 30, with 65 teams competing in the Men's 50-60 and Women's 40-50 divisions.

Along with Potomack Lakes, Philip A. Bolen Memorial Park (Leesburg) and Brambleton Regional Park (Ashburn) were also used during the second session.

However, all three complexes would not be used for the entirety of the tournament, as rain would eventually wash away play at both Brambleton and Potomack Lakes on Saturday and Sunday.

Bolen would be the lone complex used on Sunday.

SSUSA would like send a special thank you to the grounds crew at Loudoun County Parks and Recreation for all of their hard work and dedication to helping play resume on crown champions.

## Correction in Southern California State Championships Recap

In the previous newsletter, Top Gun 6 Bits 75 (CA) was incorrectly listed as winning the "if" game in the Men's 70/75 Silver Division at the 2021 Southern California State Championships.

Below is the correct recap of the division...

**In the five-team 70/75 Silver Division, top seed Top Gun 6 Bits 75 (CA) dropped their opening bracket game, 15-6, against Southern California Crush.**

**Top Gun 6 Bits would then regroup in the elimination side of the bracket, as the team rattled off three-straight victories, including a thrilling 15-14 win over No. 2 seed J Squared 75 (CA) in the championship game, forcing the "if" game.**

**J Squared avoided the dreaded double-dip by knocking out the No. 1 seed, 16-6, in the deciding game.**

**Southern California Crush 75 finished in third place.**

Congratulations again to J Squared on their victory at the Southern California State Championships!



**Women's Division in action at the 2021 Eastern National Championships**

In the six-team Women's 40 AAA Division, Taz/K&G Softball (OH) went 2-0 to take the top seed, and won opening bracket games, 13-10 over Lady Legends, and 15-0 over Fireballs (MA), to reach the championship game.

With the remainder of games rained out, Taz/K&G Softball was declared the champion.



**Taz/K&G Softball (OH) - Women's 40 AAA Champion**

Cherry Bomb (MD) won four straight games in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game.

Fireballs finished in third place.

In the four-team Women's 50 Gold Division, top seed Team Works (VA) reached the championship game following wins over Unfazed (VA) 16-10 and Dreamgirlz (VA) 21-17.

With no other games played, Team Works was declared the champion.

Unfazed finished in second place after winning a pair of elimination games, while Dreamgirlz finished in third place.

In the nine-team Men's 50 Major Division, weather also prevented the completion of bracket play.

Following its 14-8 win in the winner's bracket final to advance to the championship game and lone remaining undefeated team in the bracket, Hard Hat Café/Latella's (CT) would be declared champion.

Top seed Tri-State 50s (MD) was the runner-up, while Team Elite (PA) and KIKU Imports/MY Buddies (MA) tied for third.

The 14-team Men's 50 AAA Division saw top seed Freehold Buick/Juno (NJ) continue its solid play in bracket play, going 3-0, including a 17-5 win over High Street Bucs (MD) in the winner's bracket final.

With the rest of the games rained out, Freehold Buick/Juno took home the title, with High Street Bucs as the runner-up.

Gashouse (NY) and Old Skool/GTS Sports (PA) tied for third place.

In the four-team Men's 55 Major Plus Division, top seed BPA (PA) downed Ohio Elite/R Sports/AMR (OH), 28-27, and Kelleher Firm/Lemay/Blue Mountain (FL), 25-24, to reach the championship game.

With the rest of the games rained out, BPA was declared champion.

The five-team Men's 55/60 Platinum Division was able to be played in full.

Top seed Dugout/Mid Atlantic/Dudley 55 (VA) went 2-0 in seeding, and 3-0 in bracket play, including a 23-8 win over Phoenix Tube/REMAX 55 (FL) in the championship game.

Phoenix Tube/REMAX rattled off three straight wins in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the title game.

Aurora Tap House 55 (IL) finished in third place.

The four-team Men's 55 AAA Division was also able to be completed in full, as top seed N.E. Merchants (MD) went 3-0 in seeding, and 3-0 in bracket play, including a 21-9 win over Infoquest.com (PA) in the championship game.

Infoquest.com posted back-to-back wins in the elimination side of the bracket to reach the championship game.

Carolina Legends (NC) finished in third place.

In the three-team Men's 50/55 AA Division, Goats 50 (MD) came back to defeat Backside 50 (VA), 18-7, in the "if" game. Backside defeated Goats, 6-3, in the championship game to force the deciding game.

Longshoremen 55 (VA) finished third.

In the nine-team Men's 60 Major Division, Hamel Builders (VA) was declared the eventual champion, defeating Levin/Ameriprise (FL) in a rain shortened game in the winner bracket final.

The Bank (DE) began bracket play on the wrong footing, going 0-2. However, the team bounced back with three straight wins to advance to the third-place game. The game would be rained out.

Maryland Cougars made a valiant run through the elimination side of the bracket with four straight wins to finish in fourth place.

In the seven-team Men's 60 AAA Division, top seed Crossfit/Great Clips (NC) won their first two bracket games (12-11 over Sunshine Sluggers, FL; and 13-10 over Syracuse Cyclones, NY) to reach the championship game.

With the rest of the games rained out, Crossfit/Great Clips was declared the champion.

Sunshine Sluggers won three straight games in the elimination side of the bracket to advance to the third-place game.

## **37 Teams Duel at 2021 Midwest Championships**





**2021 Midwest Champions: Top Row (Big Daddy's Donuts, Mayhem, Carriage Home), Middle (S&S Exteriors, R&D Leverage, USA Patriots), Bottom (KC Kids)**

**ROGERS, Ark.** – The 2021 Midwest Championships drew 37 teams from seven states here from July 13-18.

The tournament, at Rogers Regional Sports Park, began with 12 teams playing in the first session.

Starting off with the three team Men's 65 Gold Division, Carriage Homes (AR) took home the title, going 3-0 in bracket play, including a 22-20 win over KC Kids (KS).

KC Storm (KS) rounded out the division.

The Men's 70 Major Division featured a best-of-three-game series between KC Kids (KS) and San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX).

San Antonio Silver Streaks took the opening game, 7-5; while KC Kids came back to even things up with a 21-15 victory in game two.

In the rubber-match, KC Kids completed the comeback, winning the deciding game, 22-7.

In the five-team Men's 65/70 Silver Division, top seed USA Patriots 70 (OK) completed a perfect week, going 3-0 in seeding, and 3-0 in bracket play, including an 18-5 win over OK-ARK 70 (OK) in the championship game.

Texas Raiders 70 finished in third place.

In the Men's 70 AA Division, R&D Leverage (MO) swept Not Dead Yet (KS) in a best-of-three-game series by scores of 20-0 and 18-8, respectively.

Session two of the tournament continued with 25 teams in the Men's 50 – 60 age divisions taking the field starting July 16.

Following rain and scheduling re-writing, champions would be crowned in four divisions.

Beginning with the five-team Men's 50 Major Division, S & S Exteriors (MO) topped No. 1 seed Team Arkansas in the "if" game, 26-20; following a 20-15 loss in the championship game.

Maher Homes Nebraska Elite won back-to-back games in the elimination side of the bracket to finish in third place.

In the nine-team Men's 50/55 Gold Division, KC Elite 50 (MO) escaped the elimination side of the bracket to double-dip top seed KC Monarchs 55 Plus (MO), winning both the championship (21-20) and "if" (16-14) games.

The top two seeds in bracket, KC Monarchs 55 Plus edged out KC Elite 50, 8-7, in the winner's bracket final to reach the championship game.

Oklahoma Rhino 50 won three elimination games en route to their runner-up finish.

The five-team Men's 55/60 Gold Division also came down to the "if" game, as Mayhem 60 (OK) double-dipped Demolition 55 (TX) by scores of 16-7 (championship game) and 21-9 ("if" game).

KC Vintage 55 (MO) finished in third place following three straight wins in the elimination bracket.

In the six-team Men's 60 Silver Division, Big Daddy's Donuts (MO) went 3-0 in bracket play, including a 22-10 win over Texas Thunder in the championship game.

Omaha Silver Bullets finished in third place after claiming three wins in a row in the elimination side of the bracket.

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