

*May 10, 2022 - In This Issue:*

Southwest Championships 2022 Wrap-Up

Texas State Teams Defend Against Outside  
Teams in the 2022 Texas State Champs

Date Change: Eastern National  
Championships

Balls, Balls, Balls - By Terry Hennessy

Obituaries - April May 2022

Pathway to the Worlds



Southwest Championships Logo, by Elite Sports

## Date Change: Eastern National Championships

Senior Softball USA has been informed that one of the 4-field softball complexes we normally use for the Eastern Nationals is being renovated and will not be available this year.

Therefore, we are moving the 40 men and the 40 and 50 women's divisions to the following weekend, on Aug. 5-7. The games will be in Loudoun County for these divisions, as well.

The dates for all other ages and divisions remain the same. Please click here for more information: <https://seniorsoftball.com/?event=1686>

We apologize for any inconvenience and will have hotel information available soon.

For hotel information, please contact Ken at The Zenith Group. The Zenith Group is helping us secure the best hotels for you and your teams. Contact Ken at [kbroadbent@thezenithGRP.com](mailto:kbroadbent@thezenithGRP.com) or call (540) 974-7992. Mention 'Senior Softball USA'.



## Southwest Championships 2022 Wrap-Up

By Donna McGuire

Close games, spirited action, a stolen glove, a game-ending triple play, and a wide range of weather culminating in a beautiful championship Sunday highlighted action in the Southwest Championships held in Las Vegas and its suburbs April 19-24.

Twenty-nine teams qualified for the 2023 Tournament of Champions in Florida by winning titles at the event, which has grown into SSUSA's second-largest annual tournament. This year, 245 men's and women's teams entered. Together, they played nearly 790 games.

Dust storms battered the opening session, causing havoc for pitchers seeking strikes and fielders trying to capture fly balls that spun furiously away from their original trajectories. During the second session's opening day, cool wind-driven rain peppered players part of the day. Thankfully, the weather took a delightful turn in time for weekend play.

Throughout the tournament, spectators saw seesaw battles culminate with walk-off home runs or sparkling defensive plays. A triple play ended the first bracket game in the 70 AAA division between the Sacramento Islanders and Duke City. With no outs in the top of the seventh inning and runners on first and second base, Duke City hit a short fly to right field. Islander right fielder Charlie Stebbins caught the ball, threw it to first baseman Bruce Gilmore for the second out, who pivoted and threw it to Craig Nakahara at second for

## Balls, Balls, Balls - By Terry Hennessy



From the Dugout  
By Terry Hennessy

Who would have thought that softballs would be such an excellent example of the dangers of farming U.S. manufacturing out to other countries?

For almost two decades, softballs have been manufactured in China. All softballs.

For the past two years, there have been delays of several months getting our softballs. Balls that were scheduled to arrive in February, are now forecast to arrive in June or July.

Why?

There are several reasons:

The factories have closed numerous times because of China's zero-COVID policy. Under that policy, if there are any cases of COVID reported, whole cities and provinces are closed down for several weeks.

Once loaded on container ships, there are delays in both Chinese and U.S. ports because of the backup of ships leaving and arriving at ports. Those delays can be caused by a lack of port staff, added tariff regulations, or because of a shortage of containers.

The shortage of containers is because there has been a spike in demand for products in the past year as countries have opened up after the pandemic.

Once the balls actually clear customs in Los Angeles, there are shipping delays – again caused by staff shortages.

So, what does this mean for senior softball teams?

It means teams will be using different balls in Senior Softball USA's 90 National Qualifiers and 250 leagues – as long as we can cobble together enough balls until our shipment arrives.

This is simply an example. Assorted businesses throughout the country are facing the same supply problems because the products they need are manufactured overseas.

We long for the days when softballs were made in America... while it likely would be more expensive today to produce them here, at least we will be able to get the balls when we need them.

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

## Obituaries - April May 2022

Tim Darcey



the third out to end the game.

And in the strange category, a schoolgirl passing through Hollywood Park enroute to her middle school stole a ball glove from its fence-top perch. A sharp-eyed outfielder saw the theft and shouted an alarm. Two players and tournament director Reggie Weathersby chased the girl down a hill and into a park, where she discarded the glove. At Weathersby's request, she apologized.

The tournament's largest bracket featured 20 teams in the men's **40+ Major** division. Three California teams topped the charts. Fattboyz/Prestige double-dipped top-seeded KJE 23-22 and 20-16 to earn the title. KJE had not lost before facing the 15<sup>th</sup>-seeded Fattboyz/Prestige. Evan Williams/CWI placed third.

Another California team, Fattboyz/Elite, won the men's four-team **40+ Major Plus** bracket by beating Johnny Blaze of California 29-25. GTS of Idaho finished third.

In the six-team men's **40+ AAA** division, the top-seeded Underdawgz of Arizona ([photo below](#)) prevailed 16-14 in the "if" championship game. The second-place Skrewballs of California won three elimination games before defeating the Underdawgz 18-12 in the first championship game. Vintage Softball of Arizona placed third.





Tim Darcey, 72, of Granite Bay, Calif., who died on April 20, joined Senior Softball USA in 2016 and continued playing until he lost his battle to cancer.

Active as a kid and an athlete at heart, his eulogy discusses how he played competitive senior softball. "He played competitive softball for decades, competing in regional and national tournaments... I once saw him play a game in the over 60 league and he was an impressive player, batting four for four and making some tough catches in center field," said his brother Terry.

He started his Senior Softball USA career playing with Not Yungins 60s, The Crew 60s, and the Sacramento Islanders 70s.

Tim's Sacramento Islanders manager Dan Norton said, "He was a great teammate, never complained where he played or batted in the order. He was also willing to run for someone every inning. He will be missed, and may he rest in peace."

Tim is survived by his wife, Kathy, their three children, and his brother Terry.

#### Cliff Thomas



Clifford T. Thomas, 76, of Pleasant Hill, Calif., died April 28 due to complications of ALS.

His passion for softball started at a car wash and chatting with a neighbor about coming out to play in Pleasant Hill for the



Two **women's 40+ AA** teams played a best-of-three format to decide a champion. Sandlot Sluggers of Nevada ([photo below](#)) swept Idaho Spirit 20-10 and 17-11.



In the 10-team **women's 40+ Major** division, top-seeded TABU of California completed an unbeaten tournament with a 14-3 victory over second-place Tharaldson of Nevada. HTS-Here To Smash of California finished third.

Top-seeded Freak Show of California lost only one game enroute to winning the 14-team **women's 40+ AAA** division. Freak Show defeated Notoriously We Gucci 17-2 in the "if" game after losing the first title game 14-11. Gucci won six elimination games to reach the championship. Not Today of Nevada took third.

The two-team **women's 50+ Major** division played a best-of-three bracket. Cali Gold lost the first game 13-6 but rebounded with 7-6 and 16-9 victories over Karphone 50s of California.

Old Nasty Curves of California ([photo below](#)) doubled-dipped Takin' Chances of California 19-5 and 19-8 to win the seven-team **women's 50/55+ Gold** bracket. Takin' Chances had dealt top-seed Old Nasty Curves its only loss, 16-12, in the winner's bracket finals.



Senior League.

Cliff started playing, then became commissioner for the Pleasant Hill Senior Softball for three years, and then joined a traveling tournament team in 2010. He traveled to Florida for the TOC with Mustangs and many Reno, Las Vegas, St George tournaments with the Game On 65s -70s, Wrecking Crew and State Roofing teams. He enjoyed the camaraderie of senior softball.

He is survived by his wife Debbie, son Gabe, daughter-in-law Holly, grandchildren Hunter, Ruben and Quentin and sister Theresa Powell.

## Pathway to the Worlds

By Nic Francois

The pathway to the 2022 World Championships in Las Vegas is paved with hard work, fun, sportsmanship and several upcoming TOC tournaments.

SSUSA officials confirmed that the 2022 World Championships will be returning to Las Vegas for the 9th year. SSUSA, which has run major tournaments in Las Vegas for the past two decades, has already lined up numerous fields, host hotels, and sponsorships for Sept. 15 through Oct. 2.

Last year's 2021 World Championships was record breaking with 650 teams representing 40 states, Guam and two Canadian provinces. The championship took 15 days for 2,103 games across 35 divisions on nine fields.

Officials are expecting an even bigger turnout for this year's World Championships as the country eases up Covid-19 restrictions and more people are ready to return from quarantine.

To join the fun this September in Las Vegas, consider playing in these upcoming TOC Qualifiers:

### 2022 Bill Miller Can-Am Classic

Location: Niagara Falls, ON, Canada

Dates of Play: May 28-29, 2022

**Deadline: Friday, May 13, 2022**

**Entry Fee: \$400 (CDN)**



**Niagara Falls**, only 8 minutes from the field.

Dream Team 55s of Arizona won three elimination games before finishing third.



Ten teams competed in the men's **50+ Platinum** division won by Stadium, which ended the title game with a sterling double play. Stadium, a California team that finished undefeated (**photo below**), led Amigos 50s of Arizona 20-18 with one out in the seventh inning when an Amigos runner tried to score from second base on a fly out to the outfield. Stadium's relay throw beat him by a step at the plate. Shakas of California won four elimination games to finish third.



In the 17-team men's **50+ AAA division**, top-seeded Kons Trenching of Wisconsin won the title with a 12-1 victory over Team SMS of Nevada in the "if" game. Team SMS dealt Kons its only loss, 12-5, in the first championship game. CaliGold won five elimination games to finish third.

In one of the few brackets where the top two seeds reached the championship game, first seed L.A.F. 55 of California double-dipped ShowTime So Cal 18-15 and 22-9 to win the 11-team **55+ Major** division. ShowTime had nipped L.A.F. 21-20 in the winner's bracket finals. Arizona Old School placed third.

Please contact **SPN's Tricia Harrow** to enter.

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## 2022 Northern California State Championships

Location: Sacramento & Placer Counties, CA

Dates of Play: June 10-12, 2022

**Deadline: Friday, May 27, 2022**

Entry Fee: \$555



**Downtown Sacramento** overlooking Old Town Sacramento and our iconic, golden Tower Bridge.

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## 2022 Southern California State Championships

Location: Cathedral City & Hemet, CA

Dates of Play: June 21-26, 2022

**Deadline: Friday, June 7, 2022**

Entry Fee: \$555



**Palm Springs**, just west of Cathedral City.

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## 2022 Northeast Championships

Location: Syracuse, NY

Dates of Play: July 8-13, 2022

**Deadline: Friday, June 24, 2022**

Entry Fee: \$555

Top Gun Phantom, which started bracket play seeded last, won the 14-team men's **55+ AAA** division by blasting Ranalls Realty of Arizona 20-0 in the title game. Ranalls, the second seed, lost a one-run thriller earlier in the bracket to Phantom. Third place went to Top Gun Storm.

Xtreme of Arizona won the best-of-three men's **55+ AA** division with 28-22 and 17-16 victories over the St. George Raptors of Utah.

Legacy Sports USA of Arizona won the men's four-team **60+ Major Plus** division by beating LPC of California 21-11 in the "if" game after losing 28-24 in the first championship game. CornerStone of Oregon took third.

Two Colorado teams battled for the championship of the men's 14-team **60+ Major** division. Peak/Scrap Iron 60s earned the crown by defeating Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 20-19 in the "if" game after losing 17-2 in the first championship game. Express of California placed third.

An "if" game also was needed to decide a highly competitive 17-team men's **60+ AAA** division. The top-seeded Silver Stars of California lost the first championship game 24-22 before winning the second 20-19 over the Arizona Scorpions. Los Vatos Viejos 60s II finished third after losing its final game by one run.

The top-seeded SoCal Titans took the long route to win the men's six-team **60+ AA** division. The Titans lost their first bracket game 18-14 before rattling off five victories in a row, including 11-9 and 17-11 over second-place Arizona Blaze in the championship games. Tri City/Time Share of Washington placed third.

Cal Energy ([photo below](#)) defeated Timberworks of California 27-16 to win the men's six-team **65/70+ Major Plus** division. Cal Energy also beat Timberworks, the top seed, 19-18 in Timberworks' first bracket game. Timberworks won four elimination games to reach the title bout. Another California team, Demolition, placed third.







Lake Ontario, about an hour north of Syracuse.

## 2022 Midwest Championships

Location: St. Charles, MO  
 Dates of Play: July 8-13, 2022  
**Deadline: Friday, June 24, 2022**  
 Entry Fee: \$555



St. Louis' Gateway Arch, 30 minutes out of St. Charles.

## 2022 Jim Sherman Memorial/Northwest Championships

Location: Salem, OR  
 Dates of Play: July 12-17, 2022  
**Deadline: Friday, June 28, 2022**  
 Entry Fee: \$555

Top-seeded R&R of California won the six-team men's **65+ Major** division by double-dipping the Nor Cal Reds 17-14 and 17-12. Scrap Iron Xplosion of Colorado finished third.

Sin City Mob from Nevada raced undefeated through the men's 15-team **65+ AAA** bracket. It capped a 7-0 tournament by winning its final three games by an average of nine runs, including a 25-16 final. Second-place Full Throttle of Arizona won seven elimination games to reach the championship. Weakened Warriors of California placed third.

The Family of Nevada, which went 5-1, defeated Duke City Dynamite of New Mexico 24-12 to win the men's five-team **65+ AA** bracket. Los Vatos Viejos 65 II of Arizona finished third.

Arizona Ancient finished an undefeated run through the men's eight-team **70+ Major** division with a 21-15 title game victory of the Arizona Scorpions. Over The Edge from California took third.

Ryan's Way, (photo below), the eighth seed in the men's 15-team **70+ AAA** division, started bracket play by knocking off top-seeded D&K Softball 18-11. From there, Ryan's Way just kept winning. It defeated second-seeded Last Call of Nevada 13-10 in the championship game after Last Call won seven elimination games to get there. No Guts, No Glory of California placed third.



In the only one-run game of the men's three-team **70+ AA** bracket the Las Vegas Desert Heat defeated California's Git-R-Done 17-16 to win the championship. Franklin Loan of California took third.

The men's seven-team **75+ Platinum** division played a round-robin format. Omen 75, (photo below), the only Major Plus team in the division, won the title with a 6-0 record that included four one-run victories. Runner-up Sidewinders of Arizona won a TOC bid and the **75+ Major** title by notching a 5-1 record. The Tri-State Diamondback of New Mexico finished a game back at 4-2.





**Portland International Rose Test Garden**

Photo courtesy of: [travelportland.com](http://travelportland.com).

## 2022 ISA Senior World

Location: Columbus, IN

Dates of Play: July 21-24, 2022

**Deadline: First 46 Teams**

**Entry Fee: \$575**



**Indianapolis World War I Memorial**, less than an hour from Columbus.

Please contact **ISA President, Mike Caldwell** to enter this tournament.

The ISA Senior World is the last TOC Qualifier tournament that leads us into the Eastern National Championships and the Western National Championships.

Teams must play in a qualifier during the 2022 season to secure a qualifying roster for the either of the National Championships. Winners of both National Championships play each other in U.S. National Championship Game at the World Championships in Las Vegas this September.



The eight teams in the men's **75+ AAA** bracket also played a round-robin format. The Scrap Iron Diamonds of Colorado won three one-run games and notched a 6-1 record to take the title. Vegas Strong earned second place with a 5-2 record that included an 8-5 victory over third-place Al's Sport Shop of California, which also finished 5-2.

Four teams battled in the men's **80/85+ Major** division won by the Arizona Sidewinders, which defeated Top Gun Gold of California 31-23 in the championship game. Colorado's Scrap Iron Gray Berets took third.

Gold Rush of California ([photo lower left](#)) completed an unbeaten tournament with a 11-3 title game victory over Hui Ohana of Hawaii ([photo lower right](#)) in the men's five-team **80+ AAA** division. The Top Gun Diamonds finished third.

After the Eastern and Western National Championship games, our late Summer TOC Qualifiers will lead us to the long awaited 2022 World Championships. See you there.



## **Texas State Teams Defend Against Outside Teams in the 2022 Texas State Champs**

**From Donna McGuire**

GRAPEVINE, Tex. \_ Sixty-six men's teams from nine states converged here hoping to emerge as Texas State Champions and winners of 2023 Tournament of Champion invites.

Four out of every five teams that entered the April 26 through May 1 event hailed from the Lone Star State. And though Texans won most of the divisions, teams from Iowa, Tennessee, Colorado and Missouri also claimed championships.

Rock N Legends of Texas swept Vivid/Easton/MadCap in a best-of-three format 21-20 and 7-0 to win the 50/55+ Major Plus championship.

GeoCrete/Power House of Texas ([photo below](#)) finished a 6-0 tournament run by defeating the Originals of Texas 18-11 in the title game of the three-team 50+ Major division. The Texas Mavericks took third.





The 12-team 50+ AAA division featured the tournament's largest bracket. Texas Steel won the title as the unbeaten winner's bracket team. Creed of Texas, the 12th seed, finished second. Undisputed Truth of Texas, placed third.

Texas Crush 60s (photo below), the elder statesmen in the 55/60+ Platinum division, edged Escobar Body Shop of Texas 23-22 to win that five-team bracket without a loss. Escobar finished as the top 55+ team. ManCave of Texas finished third.



In the 10-team 55/60+ Gold division, Texas Rush 55 (photo below) did not lose a bracket game and beat ETX 55s 20-15 in the championship. The Texas Bulldogs finished third.



In the two-team 55+ AA division, Manifest swept Team LBK 17-13 and 20-19. Both are Texas teams.

A Colorado team, Club Tilt/Haus (photo below), reigned supreme in the three-team 60+ AA division. It edged the Austin Wizards 16-15 in the title game. The Scrap Iron Rockies finished third.



The Houston Fire 65s Major team bested eight 60+ AAA teams to win the 60/65+ Gold division after starting bracket play as the second seed. The Tex/Ark Legends earned a TOC invitation as the top 60+ AAA team. The Texas Legends won two elimination games before finishing third.

The best-of-three 65+ Major bracket went the distance, with the KC Kids 65s of Missouri rebounding from a first-game 15-14 loss to win the title. The Kids beat Mayhem of Oklahoma 20-10 and 22-17 in the second and third games.

In the two-team 65+ AAA division, Texas Thunder swept Triple 2 Texas 19-4 and 16-6 to win the title.



The same story unfolded in the two-team 65+ AA bracket. The Electrifiers of Texas swept Robson Ranch Texans 65s 20-18 and 25-18.

Three teams battled for the 70+ Major crown, with The Grind.com of Tennessee defeating the KC Kids 70s 23-8 for the title. The San Antonio Silver Streaks finished third.

The six-team 70+ Silver division went to an "if" championship game, which the top-seeded Texas Raiders won. Robson Ranch Texans 70 finished second. The Texas Rattlers placed third.

Midwest Express of Iowa won the best-of-three 75+ Gold bracket by sweeping OK-ARK in two games, 17-16 and 21-19.

The Texas 75 Knight Riders swept the Antiques of Kansas City 11-14 and 10-4 to win the best-of-three 75/80+ Silver bracket.

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