



MORE THAN JUST A GAME ■ AMERICA'S LARGEST CIRCULATED SENIOR SOFTBALL PUBLICATION

WMC Continues Stronghold as Largest Senior Softball Tournament



■ **PAGE 18:**
2019 WMC Wrap-Up

■ **PAGE 19:**
Triple Grand Slam, U.S. National Champions, and Final Standings

■ **PAGE 23:**
All-Tournament Teams

Fountain of Youth Found on Softball Diamond

Softball News Report

From the Roaring 20's to the upcoming 2020's, few senior softball players can say they have bared witness to some of the greatest events of the past 90 years.

Please See Page 18



Photo from Tommy Terry
Members of Live! Casino (MD), Men's 40, take a selfie at the Gate

The Angels of Flight 996

Softball News Report

Is there a doctor on the plane? For some, the call to action must always be answered.

Following a strong showing in the 20-team Men's 40 AAA

Please See Page 9

Outfielder on Syracuse Cyclones (NY), Men's 60 AA, makes a diving play during First Session of 2019 WMC.

Photo by Jack Eberhard

1-1 Count Extended Across All Divisions for 2020

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – In a major decision for the sport, the SSUSA Rules Committee unanimously adopted a 1-1 count for all ages here during the annual SSUSA/ISA National Convention Dec. 3-6.

SSUSA has used the 1-1

count with a courtesy foul in the 40-60 divisions. The 65 and older division had used the 0-0 count (four balls and three strikes). This vote extended the 1-1 count (three balls and two strikes with a courtesy foul) to all divisions.

In addition, the committee created a 75 AA Division,

allowed recreation players to be added to AA teams and increased the time for divisions playing full round-robin formats to 70 minutes from the current 65 minutes.

Those were among the 39 issues discussed at the annual Rules Committee meeting, which are the centerpiece of

business conducted during the convention and two sessions that are open for public comment.

Delegates also inducted two people into the SSUSA International Hall of Fame for 2019: Ken "Bogie" Van

Please See Page 4

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Senior Softball News

9823 Old Winery Place, Suite 12
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 326-5303 OFFICE
(916) 326-5304 FAX
www.seniorsoftball.com

Publisher
W.E. Ruth

Editor
Terry Hennessy

Managing Editor
Anthony Ramos

Contributing Writers
Art Eversole, Carl Gustafson,
Tim McElroy, Donna McGuire,
Stan Reents, Jack Sirard,
Dave Weinman

Internet Director
Scott Flodin

Art Director
Sue Ballenger

Photographer
Jack Eberhard
JacksActionShots.com

Marketing Manager
Fran Dowell

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Index

From the Cover:

2019 SSUSA Rules Committee Continued.....Pg. 4
Angels of Flight 996 Continued on.....Pg. 9
Fountain of Youth Continued on.....Pg. 18

News Index:

2019 SSUSA HOF Banquet.....Pg. 5
Covering the Bases.....Pg. 8
Carl's Corner.....Pg. 8
New SSUSA Bat Standard.....Pg. 9
Journey of a Softball Player.....Pg. 10
Opinions & Letters.....Pg. 12
Umpire's Corner.....Pg. 14
Fitness Column.....Pg. 15
Hitting Column.....Pg. 17
Hawaiian Cruise.....Pg. 32
Finance Column.....Pg. 34

All-Tournament Teams:

	World Masters Champs.....Pg. 23
	Winter National Champs.....Pg. 28
	Winter World Champs.....Pg. 30

Sponsor Index:

BSN Sports - Official Ball of SSUSA.....Pg. 2	
Adidas - Official Shoe of SSUSA.....Pg. 29	
Elite Sports USA - Official Uniform of SSUSA.....Pg. 31	

Tournament Bat Sponsors:

 **Pg. 13**

Bat Sponsor of: Tidewater Classic, Southern California State Championships, SSUSA/CAN-Sirs Northern California State Championships, Midwest Championships, Northern Championships.

 **Pg. 33**
Bat Sponsor of: LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships, Atlantic Coast Championships, Western National Championships, Winter World Championships.

 **Pgs. 11 / 16**
Bat Sponsors of: Spring National Championships, Jim Sherman Memorial Northwest Championships, Southern Championships.

 **Pg. 7**
Bat Sponsor of: Spring World Championships, Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup, Rocky Mountain Championships, Winter National Championships.

 **Pgs. 35 / 36**
Bat Sponsors of: Texas State Championships, Northeast Championships, ISA Senior World Series, Eastern National Championships, Tournament of Champions.

Regional Boundary Study to Be Done in 2020

Continued from Page 1

Bogaert as player and Hugh Brotherton as manager. Delegates elected three others for 2020; Tom Amundson in the Player Category, Dave Sommerville in the Sponsor category and Don Brooks in the Director category.

The issues addressed ranged from double-rostering in the same age division, to moving the batter's box, to adding under-age players and expanding the regions for Major-Plus teams.

Fewer than half passed.

Rules Committee Chair Donna McGuire, the Midwest Umpire-in-Chief, made clear at the beginning of the meeting that the purpose was to improve, not simply change rules.

The Rules Committee is chaired by McGuire is made up of 13 voting members. The committee meets every year at the annual SSUSA Convention to discuss and vote on rules.

Two proposals were

tabled to allow more study.

The first was a motion to allow 65-year-old teams to field 11 defensive players.

That motion was made because when 70 teams play 65 teams, the 70 teams can use their normal 11 players on defense. Some Committee members said that this created an unfair situation for the 65s, who were limited to 10 defensive players.

Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer, explained the original reason for allowing 11 players on the 70 and older teams was that they were markedly less mobile than the younger age groups. He said that over the years, players had remained in better shape in the older groups and now the sport has 80 and 85 divisions, which did not exist when the 11-man rule was put into effect.

Today, the 65 and 70 divisions are much closer in ability and mobility, he said, recommending that the staff study the scores when 70 and 65 divisions play each other

and report back on whether the 11-man equalizer is still effective.

The second proposal was that borders be adjusted for the Great Lakes and in the Southeast.

SSUSA generally follows the rule limiting teams to players from home states and their bordering states. This rule was adopted by most national associations at the 1999 Senior Softball Summit because it was a regional rule they could all agree upon.

The SSUSA Rules Committee could not find agreement on expanding the regions without answering critical questions about how many players lived in different states and regions. The SSUSA staff was directed to complete the study by June 1 so that the committee could hold a rare mid-season meeting to discuss regions.

The reason, said committee members, was so any decision in modifying regions allowed teams enough time to build new rosters for the next

season.

In other action, the committee passed these proposals:

*Equalizers were made mandatory – they cannot be waived.

*Use of any recording devices to challenge a call on the field was prohibited.

*Added "base path" in addition to a separate definition of a "base line." A base path was defined as a line directly between a base and the runner's position at the time a defensive player is attempting to tag that runner.

*Created a separate category for an unreported player, as opposed to an illegal player.

SSUSA announced that the convention would be in Sacramento in 2020 and in Branson, Mo., in 2021.

For the complete minutes and all action taken by the committee, [CLICK HERE](#).

For a quick summary of rules changes for 2020 season, [CLICK HERE](#).



Annual ISA/SSUSA Wood Bat Game, consisting of Staff Members, Directors, UIC's, and Umpires. SSUSA defeated ISA, 9-5.



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Van Bogaert and Brotherton Enshrined

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS – Senior Softball USA gave top honors to Ken “Bogie” Van Bogaert of Wisconsin in the Player category and 88-year-old Hugh Brotherton in the Manager, inducting these two into the International SSUSA Hall of Fame here Dec. 6.

Two others were inducted into the SSUSA International Hall of Fame earlier in the year: Rick Seifman of Arizona in the Director/Umpire category and Joe Franco of Washington in the Player Category.

Delegates at the SSUSA Annual Convention also elected three Hall of Fame inductees for 2020:

***Don Brooks** of Texas in the Director category. Brooks is SSUSA’s longest tenured Tournament Director – running his first SSUSA tournament in 1989. He has been the Tournament Director for several of SSUSA’s premier tournaments, including the Eastern Nationals, Texas Championships and Winter World Championships.

***Tom Amundson** of Northern California in the Player category. Amundson

suffered a tragic accident last year that has left him paralyzed from the chest down and unable to play ball at the excellent level of competition that had become his hallmark. Amundson has played on the top teams on the West Coast, including MTC, Joe Brown’s All Stars and Timberworks.

***Dave Sommerville** of Southern California in the Sponsor category. The teams Sommerville has sponsored have played in 24 World or National Championships in multiple associations and won 16. His teams have won five Triple Crowns. Since 2012 he has sponsored at least two age groups a year. In 2016, he had teams in three age groups 50, 55 and 60 divisions.

Those three will be inducted at the 2020 SSUSA Convention in Sacramento in December 2020.

In addition, SSUSA honored a number of others with awards for exemplary service in 2019.

The Hall of Fame speeches focused both on accomplishments on the field and, even more important, the impact these men had on the sport itself.



L-R: Terry Hennessy, Bogie Van Bogaert, Steve Imlay



Hugh Brotherton with his daughters



Legends of the Game (From L to R): Steve Imlay, Bogie Van Bogaert, Ed Rose, Audie Hollis.

Bogie was recognized as one of the top softball hitters in the nation – and has taught literally thousands of players to hit better, said Steve Imlay, a nationally known hitting instructor himself, who introduced Bogie.

Since 1993, Bogie’s ROTATIONAL POWER HITTING for slowpitch softball, baseball, and fastpitch has sold more videos worldwide than any other hitting instructor.

Bogie has played at the top level of the sport for decades, most recently for the Powerhouse Pope Transport of Wisconsin and Roberts Construction. Bogie has been a force – and an ambassador – for the sport for decades.

Hugh Brotherton, the 2019 SSUSA Hall of Fame manager at 88 years young, is a positive force of nature. When he enters a room, he lifts everyone’s spirit with his zest for

Continued on Next Page

Directors, Umpires, Cities, Sponsors Honored

Continued from Previous Page

softball – and life, said his daughters Diane Hardiek and Lisa Shreve, who introduced Brotherton.

“Hugh was the driving force in establish the first 80-year-old team in Senior Softball and three years ago, he established the first 85 team,” they said.

He has managed Center For Sight to several World Championships and to three Triple Grand Slam titles.

Hugh’s leadership in the oldest divisions of senior softball has been an inspiration to younger teams who all hope to be playing when they reach 85.

The top Association award, the Award of Excellence, went to John Stote III of BSN Sports.

“John has sponsored Senior Softball USA for 30 years,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA’s chief executive officer, in presenting the award.

“As you can imagine, through three decades much has happened – and much has changed. While the company he founded and sold has been acquired by yet another giant recently, John has remained and fought the corporate battles – and there were many – to maintain our sponsorship.

“Sponsorship -- especially in these times – can never be taken for granted,” said Hennessy. “It provides us with the backing to be able to continue to offer the highest quality tournaments while keeping the entry fees manageable for teams – allowing even more players to participate.”

The Executive Director Award went to Boulder and Palace Station Casinos in Las Vegas.

“This award recognizes Boulder and Palace Casinos long-term dedication and support of the largest Senior Softball event in the world: The World Masters Championships,” said Fran Dowell, SSUSA executive director. “They make all of our wishes come true!”

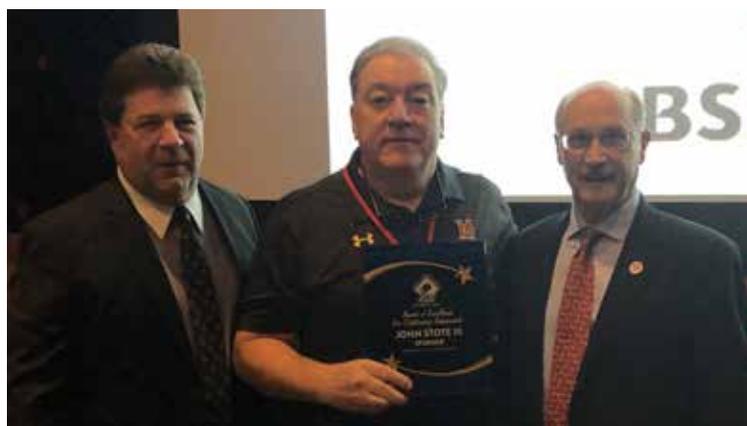
Additional honorees included:

- **Joe Diana** of Florida - 2019 Tournament Director of the Year

- **Linda Weber** of Kansas - 2019 Umpire of the Year.

- **Will Rogers** of Missouri - 2019 Regional Director of the Year.

- **Potomack Lakes Softball Complex** in Loudoun County, Virginia - 2019 Complex of the Year.



John Stote of BSN Sports (middle) with Michael Broone (left) and Terry Hennessy.



Linda Weber



Will Rogers



Members of Boulder and Palace Station Casinos



Torye Hurst and Dave Carver of Visit Loudoun (center), with Terry Hennessy and Fran Dowell.

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SMMSE12

Kyle "Fleadog" Cowart Darryl Waddy

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Wayne Busby Joe Horvath

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SSUSA 2020 Goal: Online Scores in Real Time

Senior Softball-USA has been working on a new computer database and website that would allow us to post scores online in real time so that players can follow major tournaments on their cell phones or computers as the games conclude.

We, or rather a bevy of computer experts, have been working on it for three years.

The natural questions are:

1. Why is it taking so long?

Covering the Bases

By Terry Hennessy

2. Why don't we use one of the off-the-shelf products? Good questions.

The answer to both is that there are no off-the-shelf programs that work for senior softball tournaments using a three-game guarantee bracket in several different divisions. We certainly wish there was!

In addition to posting

scores and updating brackets online, the scores also need to be fed into SSUSA's relatively complex Team Rating Program, further complicating the whole process.

In fact, SSUSA has now gone through two experts who could not complete the development.

But there is hope on the horizon.

The back-end development of the new database is nearing completion.

However -- and this is a big however -- the system then must be thoroughly tested before we launch it to make sure it all works in real-life tournaments.

We've given up on estimating how long this will all take, but we hope you will see it up and running in 2020.

Terry Hennessy is chief executive officer of Senior Softball USA and can be reached at terryh@seniorsoftball.com.

Let's Discuss an Ornery Cuss, Larry Blankenship

He had the diplomacy of a bazooka. He cussed with cadence, the proficient profanity of a drill sergeant who gets right to the point. He learned it the hard way: World War II and Korea. He had skin like a sand lot catcher's mitt, and no determined little tic ever bore deeper into your hide if he had a bone to pick. A cartoonist would have drawn him as a badger with his teeth in your boot, back-pedaling with all his might as you drug him along. He was ornery, cantankerous, and ubiquitous — and everybody loved him.

Larry Blankenship would have been 96 years old this last Pearl Harbor Day, and now he is gone. Not sure where, because if God has a balance scale of good and bad it might be bouncing up and down like a grade school teeter totter.

An advocate for Larry would undoubtedly bring up how many lives he saved bobbing around in the water for three hours after the USS Benevolence sunk. How many sailors and soldiers he saved

CARL'S CORNER

By Carl Gustafson

as a Medic in two wars where he was awarded 15 medals — and I would beg God's pardon to point out that the old codger saved my life 10 years ago.

He and I have laughed together many times since because the other players in the league playfully scolded Larry for his heroics because it was their big chance to get rid of me. How he did it reveals why we loved Larry and why God most likely does too.

I had a heart attack after crossing home plate on a full run, my lungs on fire. I collapsed in the dugout but threatened everyone who tried to help insisting I would be fine. With anger I forbid anyone to call an ambulance.

But I couldn't intimidate Larry. When he saw me his WWII medic's personality kicked in, he examined me and begin pushing on my chest, and he said, "You can kick my ass when you get out of the hospital, but by God

you're going."

I died and remained dead for almost 45 seconds while the ambulance personnel revived me. The heart surgeon said I'd already begun to decompose. Fifteen percent of my heart is still dead today and always will be. Had Larry been indecisive, or less courageous, or less passionate about his lifetime need to save others, he'd have been dissuaded by my macho blustering and my life would have ended at 63 years old.

This raw, rough, and rugged old man was on the softball field six days a week until only four days before he died. He had all the different San Diego league's softballs stockpiled in his garage and his car trunk was a cornucopia of softball flotsam and jetsam, ancient bats, gloves, scorebooks, spare hats, shirts and socks — dirty and clean.

Softball was his society, his family, his life. He despised rainouts, byes, forfeits and taking games off for holidays. He wanted to be on the softball field every day.

He delighted in the characters he would encounter at the games and loved softball players above all the muck and mire of humanity. His loyalty was unparalleled, and his ever-present smirk bespoke the humor that accompanied his craggy image in a coruscating aura. He loved to laugh and was secure enough to allow us all to make fun of his age on a daily basis.

He had a military funeral with gun salutes and flags and a standing-room-only audience, and now you may want to join in a final salute to this brave little rascal who made our game his life; who would have saved your life had it been you instead of me, who saved many lives in the perils of war, and who lives on through the descendants of those he saved who would never have been born had he not been the determined and loyal friend with the tenacity of that cartoon badger.

Carl Gustafson is an SSUSA So Cal Director and member of the SSUSA National Rules Committee.

Flight: Players at the Right Place, Right Time

Continued from Page 1

Division at the 2019 LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships, which saw Live! Casino 40 (MD) post a fourth-place finish with a 5-2 overall record, three members of the team boarded their flight heading back home in search of some much-deserved rest and relaxation.

However, for Dan "Monty" Montgomery, Marvin "Mac" McKie and Tommy Terry, the adrenaline rush from playing in the largest senior softball tournament in the country would continue 30,000 feet up in the air.

"Sometime mid-flight I was signaled by my teammates (Monty and Mac) while I was watching a movie on my phone," said Terry. "I took my headphones off and my teammates said that they needed a paramedic in the back of the plane."

Flight attendants had

been moving back and forth in the aisle when Montgomery and McKie, both retired United States Air Force personnel, recognized something was wrong and inquired about what was happening. The flight attendant informed the duo that a passenger was in distress and were about to make an announcement seeking a doctor.

Montgomery informed them that a medic was seated nearby - Terry, a 16-year veteran of the City of Annapolis, MD, Fire Department where he serves as a Firefighter First Class/Paramedic.

"We were in the last two rows of the plane so it wasn't a long walk," continued Terry. "I got to the rear of the plane with two flight attendants and the male patient. The flight attendants noted that the patient came back to them and said that he felt like he

was going to pass out and did pass out, but woke right back up. They noted that the male patient stated that he took two sleeping pills and his hypertension medication prior to the flight.

"The patient was very pale and did not look good at all. I started to use my training and reached for his radial pulse and could not find one, which indicated that his blood pressure systolic was less than 80. I asked the flight crew for any equipment that they had. As they went to retrieve the equipment, I laid the patient down on the floor with his feet up a.k.a. Trendelenburg position to have more blood flow to the heart.

"I continued to care for the patient by taking his blood pressure and re-checking on his mental status. After about 45 minutes his blood pressure came back up to a reason-

able number and the patient noted that he was feeling better. I set the patient up in a chair and rechecked his vitals at least three more times before allowing him to go back to his normal seat. During that time, the flight crew contacted BWI and let them know of our situation and the patient status. After that everyone returned to their seats.

"I treated it as I would while at the firehouse providing care for someone who needed care. The biggest challenge was trying to keep the flight attendants calm during this situation."

"Other than that, nothing too strenuous, just a basic call way up in the air going about 900 miles an hour."

New Bat Standard to Go Into Effect in 2021

Softball News Report

SACRAMENTO – Senior Softball USA has announced the development of a new bat standard that will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021.

Dr. Richard Brandt, who is retiring this year, developed the 1.21 Bat Performance Factor (bpf) test at New York University (NYU) and has certified senior bats for more than 20 years.

"We deeply appreciate Dr. Brandt's help and exper-

tise," said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA's chief executive officer. "He not only certified bats, but was an invaluable counselor whenever SSUSA ran into a bat or ball issue."

Beginning in 2020, Senior bats will be tested at the NTS Chesapeake Testing Lab in Belcamp, Md.

The new senior bat standard is being developed in conjunction with a national baseball/softball equipment committee made up of top

national manufacturers.

The original bpf standard was established so long ago that the balls used in the test are no longer used in the sport. The new standard will use current standard balls and will measure performance after bats have been used.

"Our goal is to establish a new standard that allows players to use the bats with the same performance as current bats," said Hennessy. "Bats approved under the old 1.21

bpf standard will be grandfathered in for use."

The Chesapeake lab is developing a new standard for USSSA and tests a wide array of NOCSAE standard sports equipment for several sports, including football, baseball, softball, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, polo and equestrian activities.

The Chesapeake lab also tests equipment for the military firearms and equipment.



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The Awakening of a Senior Softball Player

By **Dave Weinman**
Senior Softball News
Contributor

My first memory of baseball is from seeing the game on TV while visiting my grandfather when we lived in Indiana. He said he was watching the Indianapolis Indians baseball game. I was about 5 years old. "Are they real Indians?" I asked. I knew a lot about Cowboys and Indians, but nothing about baseball.

We moved to Syracuse when I was 8, and all my new friends played baseball incessantly during the summer. I had been wearing baseball pajamas to bed for a while now, so I was ready to be a real player.

I was pretty bad at first. Most of us are. It's not that easy to hit a baseball. Former Pirate Willie Stargell said it well: "They give you a round bat and throw you a round ball and tell you to hit it square."

Although I never was able to achieve my dream of being a professional player, I was good enough to pitch semi-pro until my late 20s. Arm trouble and the time that baseball demands led me to switch to softball. Fast pitch mostly at first.

Do you senior softball players remember when we looked at 40 year olds and thought to ourselves, "I wonder if I'll still be able to play when I'm old."

Like many of us I bet, I thought softball had to end around then. Somehow it didn't. We are perhaps the largest softball playing generation there ever will be too, because young people are not

playing in the same numbers that we did at that age. They have more options than we had maybe, but this is the way it's going.

So I heard from a friend that there was a softball tournament for guys 50 and over in Syracuse every July- I live in Buffalo now, about 150 miles away – and I assembled a team of guys and we went.

A couple of months later, I got an e-mail from SSUSA about tournaments to be held in Madrid and Barcelona, Spain. This sounded really cool to me so I forwarded the e-mail to my wife Mindy's e-mail address, but I didn't say anything to her, I just figured she'd hit "delete" and that would be it. We wouldn't know anyone, and we'd have to close our dental practice for two weeks, something we had never done. To my surprise, she was interested.

Soon I received my uniform in the mail - dark blue with a red "USA" across the chest and on the hat, my last name on the back. I was assigned to one of the two squads of guys from around the US and we practiced at an old baseball stadium in Madrid. I had pulled a hamstring a few weeks earlier and was praying it would hold up. We played a tournament the next day at two beautiful new artificial turf fields. The Madrid teams were primarily young men and a few women; few spoke English but our translator, Kiko, was a big help.

After a week in Madrid, we took an eight-hour bus ride to Barcelona. This time our practice was at the baseball stadium built for the 1992



From Left to Right: Dave Weinman, Larry Feeler, and Daryl Bruns in Nice, France, May 2019.

Olympics, a beautiful stadium with a perfect grass field.

Later that week we played teams from Barcelona and Germany. There were primarily Cubans on the best of their teams, the "Industriales", and again, they were all much younger than us. (Our average age on the SSUSA tours is usually late 60s). Those guys gave us our closest game, but we left Spain undefeated and with lots of new friends. The hammy held up and I was named "best defensive player" for the USA Blue team, a real thrill.

Since then I've played on a bunch of the overseas trips sponsored by SSUSA. Terry Hennessy does a great job of balancing the itinerary between the softball and the touring. We love the traveling and I love the softball but what really tops it off (and I think my wife, Mindy, agrees) is the people we meet, the friends we make and the fun we share with them.

I'll end with this: at one of the tournaments in Hawaii

there was a little food stand selling hot dogs, hamburgers and its "cheeseburger in paradise." Someone asked the cook, "What's on the cheeseburger in paradise?" He replied, "Cheese. You're in paradise."

David Weinman, of NY, is a current SSUSA member and player with Durham Silver Stix 60 (ON, Canada). He formerly managed Rustbelters 50 (NY).

Heard in the Dugout

Whether you are 30 or 40 or 50 or 60 or 70, if you don't rise from breakfast with a fine excitement to begin the day, you have missed something which is better than anything you have got in its place.

- Stuart Sherman

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Opinions & Letters

A Place Where Players Become Family

It seems that whenever we start a new season of Senior Softball, someone always has an idea of how we can add to our game.

Perhaps it's the team's manager who suggests a new strategy or a physical trainer who wants you to add more stretching to your pre-game ritual or even a batting coach who thinks he's found a flaw in your swing.

While they're all good and reasonable thoughts as we enter the new year, here at Senior Softball-USA we've got another idea:

Remember that Senior Softball is really "more than just a game...."

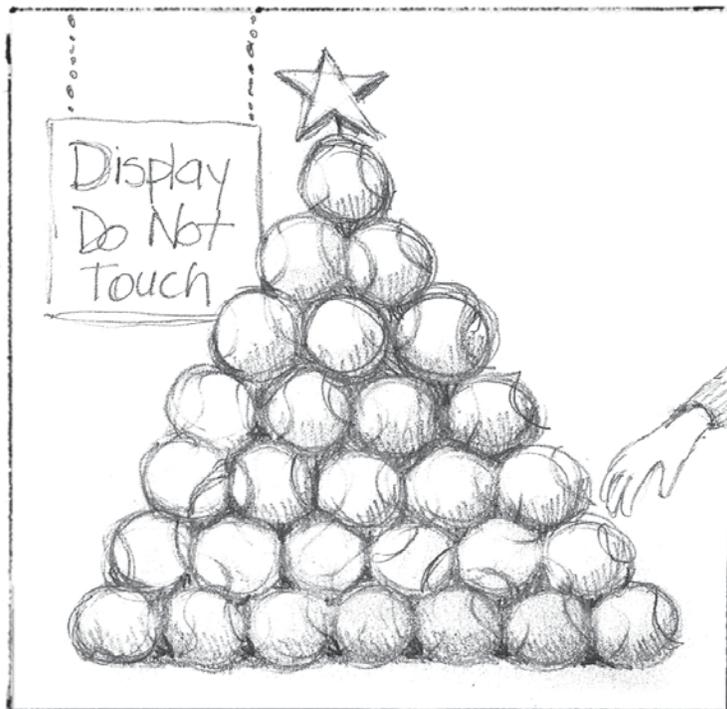
That's our slogan – because Senior Softball is much, much more than

just a game. It is a very special place where players become teammates, teammates become friends, and friends become family.

Almost every day, we hear how polarized the country – and the world – has become.

But on the field and in the parking lots after the games, players can leave all of that behind and concentrate on a common goal, a common love of the game and simply enjoy the comradery that comes with playing hard and with sportsmanship with fellow ballplayers...no matter who they are, where they come from, or what they believe.

And that is a very special place indeed!



Sue Ballenger

JOIN THE SSUSA LEAGUE FAMILY!

SSUSA provides promotion of leagues on its website (www.seniorsoftball.com), which has provided players a way to identify local leagues in their area.

It has been a very successful partnership.

SSUSA also provides the best deals on approved softballs with free delivery when ordering six dozen or more. This is a great program that can work for all leagues!

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Thanks for playing SSUSA and good luck in 2020!



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'In Game' Equipment Interferes? Play On!

With more infielders wearing masks these days, managers increasingly have asked umpires and directors what happens when a thrown ball hits a mask that a defender discarded during the play.

Some players contend that the runner should get extra bases if the ball touches, bounces off or gets stuck in a discarded mask. Others believe the runners should go back to the base they last touched.

Both answers are incorrect — if a player was wearing the mask when the play began.

Think of it this way: What happens in Major League Baseball when a runner's helmet flies off as he rounds second base and then a ball thrown from the outfield misses the cutoff man and hits the helmet?

The answer: Play on.

The helmet started in its correct place — on the batter's head. When it came off during play, it became part of the playing field. As long as a runner doesn't throw his helmet at the ball, there's no interference. Play on.

The same is true for when a senior softball player pulls off his/her mask after a ball has been hit and drops the mask on the ground. If a thrown ball hits the mask, play on.

Now, there are circumstances where penalties come into play when a batted or thrown ball hits a piece of unattached equipment. Such equipment includes bats or gloves left outside the dugout by the offensive team.

To help keep rules involving unattached equipment straight, let's break the situations into two categories:

1. Equipment "in the game," meaning being used during that play.
2. Equipment not part of the current play.

Equipment used at the start of the play becomes part of the field when discarded — in most instances. Picture the batter dropping the bat in fair territory as he runs to first. If the batted ball spins backward or sideways and hits the stationary bat on the ground, play on. And if a thrown ball headed toward the catcher

Umpire's Corner

By Donna McGuire

strikes that bat, play on.

BUT if the batter squibs a grounder and then throws his/her bat at the ball while taking off for first, he/she should be called out if his/her moving bat hits the ball -- or if his/her airborne or rolling bat impedes a defender trying to field the ball.

Back to masks.

Picture a defensive player pulling off his/her mask to better track a high pop up in the infield. He/she holds the mask in his/her right hand as he/she watches the ball descend. Trying to be cute, he/she catches the ball with his/her mask instead of his/her glove.

Because the player used equipment not in its proper place, the umpire should award all runners three bases. It is the same if a fielder throws his/her mask or glove at a batted ball and hits the ball. All runners get three bases. If a thrown glove keeps a home run ball from clearing the fence, the umpire should award four bases.

If a fielder uses a mask held in his/her hand to catch or stop a thrown ball, runners are awarded two bases. Same is true if he/she throws his/her mask, or his/her glove, and hits the ball. Runners get two bases. I've seen this happen when a pitcher wanted to keep an overthrown ball from rolling into the dugout. His/her team would have fared better if they'd let the ball go.

Now, let's move on to equipment not in the game.

Some teams like to lean bats outside the dugout. If you are on defense and leave bats out, and an overthrow hits the bats, runners will be awarded two bases from the time the throw left the fielder's hand.

If the offense leaves extra bats outside the dugout, and a live ball hits one, the ball is dead and runners must return to the last base touched.

Plus, if the equipment (the bat in this case) prevented the defense from making an out, the player being played upon is out.

Picture a two-out winning run headed home when an overthrown ball smacks against a bat the offensive team left leaning near, but outside, the dugout. Instead of game over, the runner must return to third. And if the next batter pops up? Well, you know the answer. Play on.

The same rule applies to other offensive team equipment -- gloves, masks, etc. -- outside the dugout. So if you are coaching third, don't leave your glove by the fence. If an overthrow hits it, the ball is dead, the runners must return to the last base touched, and the umpire must determine whether the ball hitting the glove prevented the defense from making an out. If it did, the runner being played upon is out. So keep your bats and gloves in the dugout.

And if you aren't the on-deck batter or coach, you need to be in the dugout, too.

We'll discuss that rule some other time.

Donna McGuire is SSUSA's Central Region Umpire-in-Chief and Chair of the SSUSA National Rules Committee.

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Yes, Playing Softball Is Good for the Heart

By Stan Reents, PharmD
Senior Softball News
Contributor

The benefits of exercise for the heart are numerous. In this review, we'll look at several.

Regular aerobic exercise strengthens the heart muscle and opens up arteries. In fact, it's been documented that exercise promotes capillary growth.

Exercise stimulates the retrieval of cholesterol to meet metabolic needs. Cholesterol is pulled out of storage sites like blood vessel walls and is transported back to the liver on the HDL particle. This is why HDL-cholesterol is higher in aerobic athletes, especially in women. And, it's why an elevated HDL blood test is considered a healthy sign.

Cleaner arteries allows for more efficient blood flow. This is reflected by an increase in VO₂max. The highest value ever recorded was in cross-country skier Bjorn Daehlie: 94 ml/kg/min. Cyclist Greg Lemond was a close second: 92 ml/kg/min. A middle-aged man with very good aerobic fitness typically registers in the 50's.

Aerobic exercise is good for the coronary arteries, too.

Clarence DeMar won the Boston marathon seven times. During his autopsy, it was discovered that his coronary artery diameter was two to three times larger than normal. And a study of cardiologists revealed that five months of running or cycling enhanced the ability of coronary arteries to dilate (expand)

during exercise.

What about the heart itself?

A stronger heart pumps more blood during each contraction. Combined with improved oxygen delivery means that resting heart rate can be slower. It's common for elite aerobic athletes to have a very slow resting heart rate.

Cyclist Miguel Indurain won the Tour de France five times. His resting HR was once measured at 28 beats per minute.

In other words, as long as you're not on medications that slow heart rate, and, you don't get lightheaded when you stand up, a resting heart rate of 55-70 bpm suggests you have a very healthy cardiovascular system.

No question, aerobic exercise is critical for maintaining heart health. But, because playing softball isn't continuous like running or cycling, does it afford similar benefits?

In general, yes.

Intermittent exercise is now recognized as providing health benefits just as continuous exercise does.

What about resistance exercise?

First, doing any form of exercise is preferable than being sedentary. But, some research shows that heavy weight-lifting for months and months without any accompanying aerobic exercise raises a few concerns.

Weight-lifting can produce brief but enormous spikes in blood pressure. Blood pressure in the brachial (upper arm) artery of one athlete performing leg

press hit 480/350. When blood pressure spikes like this occur repeatedly, it can lead to two undesirable adaptations:

- The ventricular walls in the heart get thicker. This can reduce the amount of blood the ventricles can hold, meaning that less blood is pumped out.

- The major arteries get stiffer. On this point, the research is inconsistent.

Bottom line: Resistance exercise is good for you, but it's best to combine it with aerobic forms of exercise.

And yes, playing softball is good for your heart.

Stan Reents, PharmD, is a health care professional and health/fitness coach. He created the website www.AthleteInMe.com®, a resource on the health benefits of exercise. He is also the author of "Sport and Exercise Pharmacology."

Heard in the Dugout

When I was a young man I observed that nine out of ten things I did were failures. I didn't want to be a failure, so I did ten times more work.

- George Bernard Shaw



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Play 5-on-5 to Prepare for 2020 Season

By Art Eversole
Senior Softball News
Contributor

Now that the off-season is upon us, many seniors are beginning to prepare for the 2020 campaign by getting back into the gym and finding a batting cage. Players also may want to drop those extra pounds they added from last season, all in preparation for the new year.

Another superb way to get ready for next season is to participate in five on five softball. It's both a fun and beneficial way to ready your body and sharpen your skills. Like most sports, there's no better way of getting in shape for your sport than by playing it. This softball variation has been around for many years and is played in many parts of the U.S.

For those of us who may not have heard of five on five where a team is formed with only five players, let's explore some of its features. The five on five format entails having three five-player teams, two on the field and one in the dugout. We play five innings here in the Northwest and find that most suitable for time constraints as there is a top, middle and bottom to each inning. Teams move from outfield to the infield to batting after the current hitting team is retired, and the rotation continues in that manner.

Teams typically consist of five to seven players with five being the minimum and seven being the ideal maximum that provides for the optimal benefit. However, playing only five players can lead to a lot of base running without a break

Game 1 Hitting		Infield	Outfield
Inning	Team	(1B, 2B, 3B, SS, P)	(LF, LC, RCF, RF, C)
1	Team (A)	Team (B)	Team (C)
2	Team (B)	Team (C)	Team (A)
3	Team (C)	Team (A)	Team (B)
4	Team (A)	Team (B)	Team (C)
5	Team (B)	Team (C)	Team (A)

Game 2 Hitting		Infield	Outfield
Inning	Team	(1B, 2B, 3B, SS, P)	(LF, LC, RCF, RF, C)
1	Team (A)	Team (C)	Team (B)
2	Team (C)	Team (B)	Team (A)
3	Team (B)	Team (A)	Team (C)
4	Team (A)	Team (C)	Team (B)
5	Team (C)	Team (B)	Team (A)

and maybe finding yourself on base when it's your turn to bat. The amount of time you have for play will determine whether your games can be longer than five innings.

The five-on-five softball format fulfills several purposes, for example:

- You can run full-up tournaments with teams competing for championships and trophies,
- Form local leagues where the numbers are not enough to build 15 player rosters,
- Use as a preparation for next season where players hit, field and run the bases under game-like conditions to get into shape.

The third bullet from above is the one we use in the Pacific Northwest, playing at RAC (Regional Athletic Center) in Lacey, WA. In this nuance of the game, teams play with the objective of affording players to work on their individual skills.

The winning or losing games as a team is secondary to preparing the individual player for next year. As a result, players are free to practice things he or she may not have opportunity to do during the regular season. Pull hitters can practice hitting back-

side, players can play multiple defensive positions, or even take a turn at pitching.

Team field assignments to start play:

Game 1:

- Team (A) batting,
- Team (B) infield, fills the infield positions and provides the pitcher,
- Team (C) outfield, provides the four outfielders and a catcher.

Game 2:

- Team (A) batting,
- Team (C) infield, fills the infield positions and provides the pitcher,
- Team (B) outfield, provides the four outfielders and a catcher.

Each team receives the standard three outs or five runs max during their at-bat. The last inning can be an OPEN inning but this is optional. After the team hitting is retired, the outfield team moves into the infield, the infield team moves to the dugout to hit. The team that just finished hitting moves to the outfield and so on until the game has concluded.

In game two of the double header, note that the outfield and infield teams from game one will reverse their infield/outfield assignments. This is done so that you don't have

the same team pitching to you for both games (see diagram). Some leagues like to mix the teams by odd and even innings. This is more complex and confusion on the field can be the result.

All players get to hit even if they are not playing a defensive position. Depending on the number of players on a team, a player can get as many as 12 or more plate appearances during a double header. A five-inning game takes about the same time as a regular two-team game that plays a full seven innings; about an hour and fifteen minutes on average.

Advantages of five-on-five:

- Teams only need five players to participate and is the minimum,
- Players get many more at bats under this format,
- Players will play two defensive positions during each inning and can play anywhere.
- Players work on their game without concerning themselves with the team's outcome as there'll be plenty time for that with the season starts.

Rules: We use SSUSA rules, but you can deviate to fit local needs.

Happy hitting!

Art Eversole, of Washington, has played on Major and Major Plus teams with W.E. Ruth Realty. He is the NW Senior Softball Webmaster/Softball Communications/Hitting Club Admin/NW Leagues internet coordinator.

Eversole can be reached via email at rtmyboy01@gmail.com.

2019 WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS: LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

WMC Surpasses 600 Teams for Third Straight Season

Softball News Report

LAS VEGAS - For the third straight season, the Las Vegas Senior Softball Association (LVSSA)/Senior Softball-USA (SSUSA) World Masters Championships surpassed the 600-team plateau.

The 2019 edition of the WMC featured 609 teams competing in nearly 1,990 games across eight complexes over a 15-day span (Sept. 19 - Sept. 29 / Oct. 3 - 6).

The tournament began Sept. 19 with the Men's 55 and 60 age divisions, as 167 teams representing 35 states and two Canadian provinces, competed across seven complexes.

A total of 545 games were scheduled for the opening session, including eight U.S. National Championship Games, making it the largest of the four sessions.

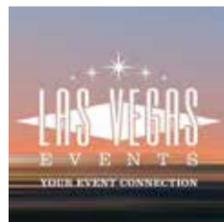
Teams from Minnesota, Florida, New York, Tennessee, Washington State and California won World Masters titles in the eight divisions.

In the eight U.S. National Games, which pits winners from the Eastern and Western National Championships, six teams from the West and two teams from the East prevailed - but only one team went all the way to the Triple Grand Slam: Somerville Softball of California in the 55 Major Plus Division.

To win the SSUSA Triple Grand Slam, teams must win either the Eastern or Western Nationals, the U.S. National Game and the World Masters Championships.

The WMC continued with the second session, Men's 65 through 85 age divisions, on Sept. 23 with 147 teams representing 25 states

Please See Page 20



1.) 50 Degrees (MO) and their fans celebrate the team's win in the 64-team Men's 50 AAA Division. 2.) Batter from Fence Brokers Team Kitty/Worth Miken (FL) swings for the fences in the Men's 50 Major Plus Division. 3.) Former Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman greets the crowd at Big League Dreams during the opening ceremonies of the LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships.

Photos by Jack Eberhard

Five Triple Grand Slam Winners 24 U.S. National Champions Final Standings

2019 Triple Grand Slam Winners

- Somerville Softball (CA) - Men's 55 Major Plus
- Timberworks/Adidas (CA) - Men's 65 Major Plus
- Nor Cal Stixx (CA) - Men's 70 Major
- Center For Sight (FL) - Men's 85 Major
- Old School (CA) - Women's 50 Major



U.S. National Championship

First Session (Men's 55 & 60)

- Men's 55 Major Plus: Somerville Softball (CA) def. RBC Wealth Management (FL), 20-10
- Men's 55 Major: WPI/Wilson Auto (ID) def. Ameriprise FL Legends, 17-16
- Men's 55 AAA: Desperados NMU (CA) def. Old Stars (IN), 22-19
- Men's 55 AA: Spin Tees (WA) def. Longshoremen (VA), 28-19
- Men's 60 Major Plus: Summy's (CA) def. Omega IT Services, LLC (MD), 19-13
- Men's 60 Major: Samurai (CA) def. Cardot/Madalena Construction (NY), 38-28
- Men's 60 AAA: Old Stars (IN) def. Weekend Warriors (CA), 26-23
- Men's 60 AA: Syracuse Cyclones (NY) def. Scrap Iron Rockies (CO), 20-12

Second Session (Men's 65 - 85)

- Men's 65 Major Plus: Timberworks/Adidas (CA) def. New Jersey Hitmen, 27-5
- Men's 65 Major: Pill & Pill (WV) def. Incrediwear (CA), 17-14
- Men's 70 Major Plus: Venom (FL) def. Omen (CA), 24-14
- Men's 70 Major: Nor Cal Stixx (CA) def. Bradford White/Jersey Masters (NJ), 20-19
- Men's 70 AAA: Syracuse Cyclones (NY) def. Sacramento Islanders (CA), 15-14
- Men's 80 Major Plus: San Francisco Seals (CA) def.

Florida Investment Properties, 16-8
Men's 85 Major: Center For Sight (FL) def. Sacramento Gold (CA), 22-8

Third Session (Men's & Women's 40)

- Men's 40 Major Plus: Suncoast Adidas (FL) def. Prestige/Elite Sports (CA), 33-18
- Men's 40 Major: Thunderstruck (CA) def. LB/Spirits West/SMC (MD), 20-17
- Men's 40 AAA: Gigantes O.C. (MD) def. Armstrong Transport (WA), 25-9
- Women's 40 Major: TKP (CA) def. Kryptonite (FL), 25-11
- Women's 40 AAA: Fireballs (MA) def. UT-Relics, 17-16

Fourth Session (Men's & Women's 50)

- Men's 50 Major Plus: Suncoast Adidas (FL) def. J.K. Inc/Easton (CA), 26-25
- Men's 50 Major: PDX/DeMarini (OR) def. CPD/Ancell (MN), 21-15
- Men's 50 AAA: Scrap Iron/Elite (CO) def. High Street Bucs (MD), 20-11
- Women's 50 Major: Old School (CA) def. Unfazed (VA), 9-5

2019 LVSSA/SSUSA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL STANDINGS

Session 1 (Men's 55 & 60)

Men's 55 Major Plus (9 Teams)

1. Somerville Softball (CA)
2. CornerStone (OR)
3. Ohio Elite/AMR
4. Elite/Dudley (AZ)

Men's 55 Major (36 Teams)

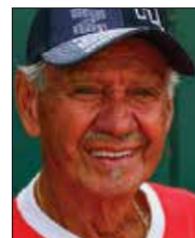
1. Speedwerx (MN)
2. 55 Oh My (CA)
3. Team Rawlings (CA)
4. Texas Stars

Men's 55 AAA (27 Teams)

1. Globe Trailers (FL)
2. American Mortgage Pro (OK)
3. Romo's Derty (TX)
4. 55 GZ (TX)

Please See Page 21

90's: Super Seniors Shine Bright at 2019 World Masters



From Page 1

However, a quintet of super seniors taking the field in their ninth decade at the recent LVSSA/SSUSA World Masters Championships in Las Vegas can say just that.

Edward Schultz of Florida and a member of Center For

Sight 85's, is no stranger to playing in his 90's, as the 92-year-old has now played in nine tournaments since hitting the big 9-0.

Joining Schultz this year at the WMC were four oth-

Please See Page 22

WMC: Two 64-Team Divisions Drive Tourney

Continued from Page 18

and one Canadian province competing across seven complexes.

A total of 493 games were scheduled for the second session, including seven U.S. National Championship Games.

Teams from Minnesota, Florida, California, Arizona, Kansas, Oregon and Nevada won World Masters titles in the 15 divisions, making it the largest session of the tournament by division.

In the seven U.S. National Games, four teams from the East and three teams from the West prevailed – with three of the seven teams completing the elusive Triple Grand Slam: Timberworks/Adidas (CA); Men's 65 Major Plus, Nor Cal Stixx (CA); Men's 70 Major and Center For Sight (FL); Men's 85 Major.

The third session included the Men's and Women's 40's age divisions, as a total of 137

teams representing 22 states, as well as the U.S. Territory of Guam, and three Canadian provinces, competing across seven complexes.

A total of 444 games were scheduled for the third session, including five U.S. National Championship Games.

In the five U.S. National Games, three teams from the East and two teams from the West prevailed.

Proving the competitive balance in the 40's division, no team would go on to complete the Triple Grand Slam during the third session.

Teams from Idaho, New York, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Utah and Hawaii won World Masters titles in the six divisions.

The fourth and final session included the Men's and Women's 50's age divisions, as well as the second annual International Co-Ed division.

The fourth session also featured the largest single age

division of the tournament, with 139 teams in the Men's 50 division - powered by the 64-team Men's 50 AAA Division (tied for the largest division of the tournament with the Men's 40 Major Division) and the 59-team Men's 50 Major Division.

158 teams representing 31 states, as well as Guam, two Canadian provinces, and Germany, competed across seven complexes during the fourth session.

A total of 508 games were scheduled for the final session, including four U.S. National Championship Games.

In the four U.S. National Games, three teams from the West and one from the East prevailed.

Of the four eventual Triple Grand Slam contenders, just one would complete the task: Old School (CA) - Women's 50 Major.

Teams from California, New Jersey, Missouri, Oregon

and Colorado won World Masters titles in the seven divisions that were played.

The Bavarian Royals from Germany made their second straight appearance in the tournament, while LVSSA fielded a team again as well. A third team, Latin-American, included two players from last year's Panama team that was unable to attend this year's tournament, along with other local players from Las Vegas. The fourth team and eventual champion was from Colorado.

The full recaps for each session appeared in previous editions of the SSUSA newsletter.

Click the below links to read each respective session recap.

[Session 1](#)

[Session 2](#)

[Session 3](#)

[Session 4](#)



Photos by Jack Eberhard



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2019 WMC Final Standings Continued

Continued from Page 19

Men's 55 AA (6 Teams)

1. Advil Knights (CA) - TOC
2. Spin Tees (WA)
3. So Cal Riptide (CA)
4. Arizona Blaze

Men's 60 Major Plus (4 Teams)

1. MTC/Dudley (CA)
2. Summy's (CA)
3. Texas Crush Sixties
4. Omega IT Services, LLC (MD)

Men's 60 Major (31 Teams)

1. Cardot/Madalena Construction (NY)
2. Samurai (CA)
3. Windy City Softball (IL)
4. X-Men (BC, Canada)

Men's 60 AAA (34 Teams)

1. DT Express (TN)
2. Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO)
3. Old Stars (IN)
4. So Cal Braves (CA)

Men's 60 AA (20 Teams)

1. Vancouver USA Woolly's (WA)
2. Syracuse Cyclones (NY)
3. 808 Hawaii
4. Pellys Stix (ON, Canada)

Session 2 (Men's 65 - 85)

Men's 65 Major Plus (4 Teams)

1. Timberworks/Adidas (CA)
2. Pope Transport (WI)
3. Enviro-Vac Marauders (WA)
4. New Jersey Hitmen

Men's 65 Major (22 Teams)

1. Arizona Ancient
2. Minnesota Masters/Ancell
3. RPR Softball (AL)
4. Nor Cal Reds (CA)

Men's 65 AAA (27 Teams)

1. KC Kids (KS)
2. No Guts, No Glory (CA)
3. Team Texas San Antonio
4. Cut Loose (CA)

Men's 65 AA (14 Teams)

1. Los Vatos Viejos (AZ)

2. Oklahoma Street Outlaws
3. Bags Softball (IA)

4. Vancouver USA Woolly's (WA)

Men's 70 Major Plus (3 Teams)

1. Omen (CA) - TOC
2. Venom (FL)
3. All American (MN)

Men's 70 Major (16 Teams)

1. Nor Cal Stixx (CA)
2. Bradford White/Jersey Masters (NJ)
3. Poncho's (AZ)
4. San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX)

Men's 70 AAA (16 Teams)

1. Mr. Plywood (OR)
2. Syracuse Cyclones (NY)
3. Sacramento Islanders (CA)
4. Doughboys (NV)

Men's 70 AA (7 Teams)

1. Southern California Crush
2. El Paso Nine-Elevens (TX)
3. Valley Fog (CA)
4. Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA)

Men's 75 Major Plus (2 Teams)

1. Omen (CA)
2. Tharaldson's (NV)
3. ProHealth Care (WI)
4. California Connection

Men's 75 AAA (8 Teams)

1. Las Vegas Coyotes (NV)
2. Hill Contracting (TX)
3. MN Masters Jimmy's
4. Git-R-Done (CA)

Men's 80 Major Plus (2 Teams)

1. Florida Investment Properties
2. San Francisco Seals (CA)
3. LOTA Softball (TX)

Men's 80 AAA (9 Teams)

1. Minnesota Masters (MN)

2. New York Statesmen
3. Chicago Geezers (IL)
4. Redwood City Gold Rush (CA)

Men's 85 Major (6 Teams)

1. Center For Sight (FL)
2. Arizona Prospectors
- T3. Southwest Stars (TX)
- T3. Sacramento Gold (CA)

Session 3 (Men's & Women's 40)

Men's 40 Major Plus (18 Teams)

1. GTS (ID)
2. Firehouse Pub/Game Apparel/Absolut (MI)
3. All American Athletics (OR)
4. Suncoast Adidas (FL)

Men's 40 Major (64 Teams)

1. Giant Steel/TRUE Point Survey (NY)
2. Giannilli's II (PA)
3. Silverbacks (CA)
4. Midwest Elite (MO)

Men's 40 AAA (20 Teams)

1. Mission: Possible (PA)
2. Torgi Trucking (WA)
3. Gigantes O.C. (MD)
4. Live! Casino (MD)

Women's 40 Major (12 Teams)

1. Dudley/Greenspace (KS)
2. Kryptonite (FL)
3. TABU (CA)
4. Get Nutz (HI)

Women's 40 AAA (20 Teams)

1. UT-Relics
2. Custom Truck (NV)
3. Pro Moves (CA)
4. Saints (AZ)

Women's 40 AA (3 Teams)

1. Shut-D XP (HI)
2. Guam FIGO Islanders
3. Guam Team SOTTA

Session 4 (Men's 50 & Women's 50 & Co-Ed)

Men's 50 Major Plus (11 Teams)

1. J.K. Inc./Easton (CA)
2. Fence Brokers Team Kitty/Worth Miken (FL)
3. Suncoast Adidas (FL)
4. Mark Thomas Law & BPA (PA)

Men's 50 Major (59 Teams)

1. Phoenix Tube (NJ)
2. Deluxe Bakery (NJ)
3. Dudley Lightning (MO)
4. Team Dudley/East Coast/Noble's Painting (MD)

Men's 50 AAA (64 Teams)

1. 50 Degrees (MO)
2. High Street Bucs (MD)
3. Hawaiians (HI)
4. Big Hurt/Draft Picks (IL)

Men's 50 AA (5 Teams)

1. Oregon Contractors Mobile App
2. Manifest (TX)
3. Gulf Coast Hurricanes (LA)
4. ITV Consulting (BC, Canada)

Women's 50 Major (7 Teams)

1. Old School (CA)
2. Karphone (CA)
3. Florida Girls
4. Arizona Dream Team

Women's 50 AAA (8 Teams)

1. 50 Caliber KC (MO) - TOC
2. NW Lady Legends (WA)
3. NW Lady Warriors (WA)
4. Guam - Team Mighty

International Co-Ed (4 Teams)

1. Colorado Hitmen
2. Latin-American (NV)
- T3. Bavarian Roylas (Germany)
- T3. LVSSA Co-Ed (NV)

90s: True Love of the Game Key to Longevity

Continued From Page 18

ers who celebrated their 90th during the 2019 season, including his teammate, Al Murray of Florida (SSUSA Hall of Famer), Paul Janke of California (National Senior Softball Hall of Famer) who played both 80s and 85s, Edwin Castillo of Hawaii, and Michael Smieja of Minnesota, an accomplished builder of concertinas who also double-dipped with an 80s and 85s team.

Schultz's first tournament as a 90-year old came at the 2017 World Masters Championships, and has gone on to play in the 2017 Winter National Championships, 2018 Tournament of Champions, 2018 World Masters Championships, 2018 Winter National Championships, 2019 Tournament of Champions, 2019 Eastern National Championships, 2019 World Masters Championships, and most recently the 2019 Winter National Championships.

Some good luck and genetics may be the main keys to Schultz's longevity: "My mother lived to be 96 and my father 91," said Schultz. "I haven't had many injuries other than some balls off the shin. I had an aorta valve replaced about 13-14 years ago, and was back playing 30 days later. I've been active all my life."

Schultz, originally from Michigan, played in a city league in Detroit with Manufacturers National Bank from 1953-1996. He began playing travel softball in 2000 when he relocated to Florida.

The biggest change in the game for Schultz was moving the bases to 70 feet from 60. "I stopped getting hits I could beat out."

Schultz's fondest memories on the diamond has been the comradery built with teammates and opponents alike, as well as traveling, having played in 20 states. "Everyone I've met through the game has been nice, win or lose," said Schultz.

Schultz wasn't the only super senior on the Center for Sight team, as he was joined by fellow teammate, Al Murray, making his 90's debut.

Murray, of Florida, is a longtime



Al Murray (middle) inducted into SSUSA HOF in 2016 in the Manager Category.

member of the Center for Sight team, spanning over 20 years beginning with the team in the 65's age division. Murray and Schultz have been teammates for 14 years.

An infielder in his younger days, which included playing fast-pitch, Murray has transitioned to pitcher, where he's been striking the mat for the past 13 years.

Along with playing in his local league in Collier County two to three times a week, Murray also bikes and swims to help him stay in shape. Murray also credits his longevity in the game to his years as an NCAA Division I Basketball referee, where he worked throughout the Northeast, as well as his late wife, Pamela, who always encouraged Murray to continue playing.

Like his teammate Schultz, Murray has been able to avoid major injuries in his playing career, just taking the occasional line drive off the head or chest.

Murray has had numerous individual and team accomplishments throughout his 25-year career in senior softball. Murray counts 68 titles for his Center For Sight squad, including winning the most recent Men's 85 Division at the WMC, which capped off the Triple Grand Slam as the team also won the U.S. National Championship game.

Murray, who played a key role in the development of the Men's 85 Division by creating the first 85's team, was inducted into the SSUSA Hall of Fame as part of the class of 2016 in the Manager

Category.

Senior Softball has also given Murray the ability to play globally, taking part in various SSUSA International Tours to Spain, Cuba, Japan, Denmark, Sweden and Norway to name a few.

However, the most memorable senior softball trip was to Hawaii, where Murray was able to visit the USS Arizona Memorial. Murray was 12 years old on that infamous day on Dec. 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor - killing 2,403 military personnel and civilians, 1,177 of whom were from the USS Arizona - and marked the United States' official entry into World War II.

"I remember the day well," said Murray. "I came home from delivering papers and saw my dad crying. I said, 'What's wrong', and he said 'We're at war'."

Murray's advice to the younger players is to keep working out, stay active, and take it one step at a time.

Another player making his 90's debut was Paul Janke, of California.

Proving that age is truly just a number, Janke pulled off double duty at the WMC, playing first base with his native SoCal Titans 80's team, while also joining the Hawaii 85's team as an outfielder.

Spanning a senior softball career of 34 years, Janke enjoys the game, managing teams as well as serving as commissioner of his local 65 and over league in Southern California. He also plays in the 55 league - only when needed.

Janke's most memorable moment on the field was completing SSUSA's Triple Grand Slam with Tiodize D-99, along with his enshrinement into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame in the Pioneer Player category, as part of the class of 2008.

Janke's message to the younger players is to enjoy yourself. "Be positive," says Janke. "Do the best you can do, it's still a game. Young guys take it more seriously - mellow out."

Edwin Castillo, of Hawaii, who played with Janke on the Hawaii 85's

Continued on Next Page

90s: 90-Year-Old Division on the Horizon



Paul Janke was inducted into the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame (NSSHF) in 2008 in the Pioneer Player Category.

Continued From Previous Page

team, agrees.

“Go with the flow,” says Castillo, who’s been playing senior softball for 30 years.

“A lot of the young guys like to

argue, and be on the best teams,” says Castillo. “Just work and keep going, don’t quit. And take advice, I still take advice.”

Like his compadres, Castillo credits his overall good health - other than two back surgeries and two knee replacements - to his playing longevity.

“I look forward, not back,” says Castillo. “Everything is good, I love the game.”

The fifth and final 90-year old at the WMC was Michael Smieja, of Minnesota, who like Janke, pulled the double-dip, playing with ProHealth Legends 85’s and Minnesota Masters 80’s.

“Never give up,” says Smieja, who of the five has had the toughest obstacle in his playing longevity, dealing with epilepsy since 1947. “It comes and goes,” says Smieja. “My teams have stuck by me and I plan on playing as long as I can. Just be with the team.”

Smieja played baseball while in the service (Army Air Forces) in 1946-1947, and hung up his cleats until the early 90’s when he began playing softball.

Smieja credits his ambition to still be playing the game today. “I just keep



Michael Smieja, in 2007, showing his concertina made of clear plexiglass, allowing the mechanisms to be seen inside.

Credit: MPR Photo/Chris Roberts

going.”

Along with playing in his local league in St. Paul, Smieja also builds and rebuilds concertinas to keep active and busy, and even carries one to tournaments. For his work, Smieja was inducted into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame in 2004.

Smieja hopes to one day see a 90-year-old team, which shouldn’t be too far off in the horizon, as the Silent Generation continues to make noise on the ballfields.

World Masters Champs All-Tourney Teams

The top four finishing teams in each division at the World Masters earn all-tournament selections, with first place earning five selections, second place receiving four, third place getting three and fourth place selecting two.

Player earning all-tournament selections from the WMC earn points towards the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame.

Session One

Men’s 55 Major Plus

Sommerville Softball (CA): John Heller, Michael Reed, Scott Logan, Robert

Robinson, Brian Hausner.

CornerStone (OR): David Dahilig, David Adams, Jeff Black, Kurt Keintz.

Ohio Elite/AMR: Tim Linson, Kevin Birkofer, Larry Tostrud.

Elite/Dudley (AZ): Dave Thompson, Chuck Henninger.

Men’s 55 Major

Speedwerx (MN): Kenny Carr, Donald Hoffman, Ronald Ehoff (Team MVP), Dennis Knapp, Kris Slettedahl.

55 Oh My (CA): Jeff Daniels, George Gonzales, Mark Carmichael, John Anthony Miller.

Team Rawlings (CA): Rick Baker, Jim Roach, Scott



Sommerville Softball (CA) won the Men's 55 Major Plus Division

Spalding.

Texas Stars: Raul Ortiz, Richard Charles, Martin Ferguson (Team MVP).

Men’s 55 AAA

Globe Trailers (FL): Don Michael Adams (Team MVP),

Continued on Next Page

World Masters Champs All-Tourney Teams



Globe Trailers (FL) won the Men's 55 AAA Division

Continued from Previous Page

Glenn Looper, Kenneth Reid, Timothy Bohlmann.

American Mortgage Pro (OK): Randy Owens, Rusty Moore, Ben Myers, Robin Timm.

Romo's Derty (TX): Kirk McBride, David Etling, Jim Layman, Raymond Torres (Team MVP).

55 GZ (TX): David Juarez, Gary Kubenka.

Men's 55 AA

Advil Knights (CA): Harvey Crosthwaite, Greg Abejon, Mark Speer, John Prybylla, Gary Evens, Norm Kellogg (Team MVP).

Spin Tees (WA): Grant Brown, Kevin Johnson, Bill Jones, Will Henderson.

So Cal Riptide (CA): Geoff McKinney, Harry Schaffer, Ken Tracy.

Arizona Blaze: Philip White, Fortino Garcia.

Men's 60 Major Plus

MTC/Dudley (CA): David Matusich (Team MVP), Gary Robertson, Vern Ramie, Kim Smylie, Wayne Doty.

Summy's (CA): Michael Babb, Kevin O'Reilly, Scott Camery, Greg Brandt.

Texas Crush Sixties: Mur-

ray Williams, Mike Jimenez, John Roach.

Omega IT Services, LLC (MD): Hosea Harris, Garland Johnson.

Men's 60 Major

Cardot/Madalena Construction (NY): Peter Zepetella, Mike Yargeau, Patrick Kelly, Gerald Bielak, Curt Kirchmaier.

Samurai (CA): Jose Cotto, Mark Toma, Vince Skandunas, Jack Doty.

Windy City Softball (IL): Tom Cahill, Gary Holland, Steve Misewicz.

X-Men (BC, Canada): Dale MacDonald, Brian Tucker.

Men's 60 AAA

DT Express (TN): Raymond Mason, Gary Davenport, Ronnie Joslin, Jimmie Young, Jeff Cherry, Tim Moore (Team MVP).

Scrap Iron Xplosion (CO): Danny Silvey, Dave Schultz, Charles Kunkel, John Bellatti.

Old Stars (IN): Peter Headley, Geoffrey Biltgen, Bob Cash.

So Cal Braves (CA): Bob Loenhorst, Curtis Shur, Art Estrada (Team MVP).

Men's 60 AA

Vancouver USA Wooly's (WA): Jose Villalpando, Jeff Bushor, James Taylor, Gerard Bartlett, Pete Sagisi.

Syracuse Cyclones (NY): Jack Baxter, Don Huelsman, Peter Johnson, Louis Rossi.

808 Hawaii: Joe Queja, Darrell Wong, Bruce Matsui.

Pellys Stix (ON, Canada): Marty Dupuis, Kenneth Pelley.

Cut Loose (CA): Earl (Sam) Grimes, Rudy Valdez.

Men's 65 AA

Los Vatos Viejos (AZ): Bob Sismondo, Bill Saunders, Victor Johnson, William Ong, Roy Moreno.

Oklahoma Street Outlaws: Larry Strassle, Victor Seidel, George Basore, Alvin Crossley.

Bags Softball (IA): Richard Venzke, James Bailiff, Charlie Aldrich.

Vancouver USA Wooly's (WA): Garry Rapp, Steven Purcell.

Men's 70 Major Plus

Omen (CA): Chris Dayak, Wayne Ross, Daniel Walsworth, Peter Houghton, John Denham, Bob Cummings (Team MVP).

Venom (FL): David Clover, James Davidson, Stewart Casterline, Dennis Schroeder.

All American (MN): Mike Trewick, Paul Trewick, Rick Hoen, Douglas Swenson (Team MVP).

Men's 70 Major

Nor Cal Stixx (CA): David Flores, Daniel Burbank, Steven Etchieson, George Garcia, Johnny Melvin.

Bradford White/Jersey Masters (NJ): Joseph DiFabio, James Siers, Frank Taparata, Richard Polonitza, Joe Romeo (Team MVP).

Poncho's (AZ): Paul Gayer, Michael Wolfe, Spence Preston.

San Antonio Silver Streaks (TX): Chris Schneider, Robert Saenz.

Men's 70 AAA

Mr. Plywood (OR): David Harms, Joseph Savage, Richard Scorza, Leslie Gipe, Ralph Davis.

Session Two

Men's 65 Major Plus

Timberworks/Adidas (CA): Vernon Fowler, Jimmy Ross, Hank Alonzo, Steve Hillman, Roger Sanders, Rick Littlejohn (Team MVP).

Enviro-Vac Marauders (WA): Rick Parker, Marlin Harris, David Mueller.

New Jersey Hitmen: Michael Boone, Richard Meltz.

Men's 65 Major

Arizona Ancient: Ken Sheffield, Dick Reader, Mark Barnes, Alan Hawkenson, Ken Johnson.

Minnesota Masters/An-cell: Jeff Handevitd, Gary Bennett, Steve Pease, Donald Tarasewicz.

RPR Softball (AL): Darrell Moreland, Monte Miller, Glenn (Dale) Smith.

Men's 65 AAA

KC Kids (KS): Mike Hildebrandt, George Kramer, Dan Potter, Randy Rowe, Lonnie Smith, David Cook (Team MVP).

No Guts, No Glory (CA): Jon Forbes, Joe Guerrero, James Henley, Randy Van Essen.

Team Texas San Antonio: Tyrone McClellan, Charles (Mike) Johnson, Ray Pilgrim.

Continued on Next Page

World Masters Champs All-Tourney Teams



OMEN (CA) won the Men's 75 Major Plus Division

Continued from Previous Page

Syracuse Cyclones (NY): George VanDeusen, George Cole, Jim Miller, Ted Storto.

Sacramento Islanders (CA): Jerry Enfield, Bob Smith, Richard Edwards, Robert Milano (Team MVP).

Doughboys (NV): Robert Rink, Dale Alcorn.

Men's 70 AA

Southern California Crush: Robert Jackson, Russell Young, John Parker, Larry Wagenbach, Steve Swager.

El Paso Nine-Elevens (TX): Mickey Saucedo, Robert Ward, Steven Schiller, James Graham.

Valley Fog (CA): Kenneth Leppke, Kent Grant, Allen (Bill) Neri.

Top Gun Olde Dawgs (CA): Randy Martinez, Leroy Messenger.

Men's 75 Major Plus

Omen (CA): Tom Bussey, Joseph Cors, John Di Re, Michael Hoffberg, William Wilson, Ronald McElyea (Team MVP).

Men's 75 Major

Sidwinders (AZ): Melvin Bentley (Team MVP), Richard Collins, Jerry Bianchi, Harold (Buster) Dickinson,

Jay Larson, Michael Lavis. California Connection: James Kenney, Mike McCassey.

Men's 75 AAA

Las Vegas Coyotes (NV): Dale Clem (Team MVP), Larry Miller, Henry Cluess, Robert Lane, Jeff Wagner.

Hill Contracting (TX): Michael Donahoo, James Torrence, Alan Smith, Larry Lentzner.

Minnesota Masters Jimmy's: Ronald Davis, Tom Lundberg, Richard Bunde.

Git-R-Done (CA): Lyle "Rick" Waters, Don Sternberger, Roger Tim Haug (Team MVP).

Men's 80 Major Plus

Florida Investment Properties: Frank Gordon (Team MVP), Ronald Hellier, Vinnie Remson, Ray Dye, Fred Cronin.

San Francisco Seals (CA): Robert Hannah, Robert Banchemero, Terry Nafziger, Robert Davis.

Men's 80 Major

Top Gun Gold (CA): Gary Adams, John Chacon, Vincent (Dave) Duarte, Gary Evans, Robert McCormick.

Scrap Iron Gray Berets



Minnesota Masters won the Men's 80 AAA Division

(CO): Joseph DeCristofaro, Ken Nakauchi, John Wunderli, William Brown, Don Pierson (Team MVP).

Men's 80 AAA

Minnesota Masters (MN): Lowell Thompson, Stephen Agard, Robert Lenzmeier, Donald Carruth, Earle Anderson, Tom Daniel, Norman Setnick (Team MVP).

New York Statesmen: Thomas Ladd, Douglas Hogue, Lee Southworth, Tom Silvia.

Chicago Geezers (IL): Raymond Hafertepe, Gary

Kennelly, Thomas Buck.

Redwood City Gold Rush (CA): Charley Aragon, Raymond Johnson.

Men's 85 Major

Center For Sight (FL): Joe Sykes, Robert Johnson, David Drakulich, David Goldberg, Tom Ingham, David Bush (Team MVP).

Arizona Prospectors: Richard Payseno, Roger Williams, Ted Alarcon, Robert McElrea, John Vignati (Team MVP).

Southwest Stars (TX): Albert Lenski (Team MVP), John Cowan, Ron Perdue, Dick Skinner.

Sacramento Gold (CA): Norman Blackwell, Raymond Everingham, Dave Fairchild, Ray Newman (Team MVP).

Session Three

Men's 40 Major Plus

GTS (ID): Brian Higginbotham, Dann Rogers, Beau Hamilton, Dan Romero, Brian Fong.

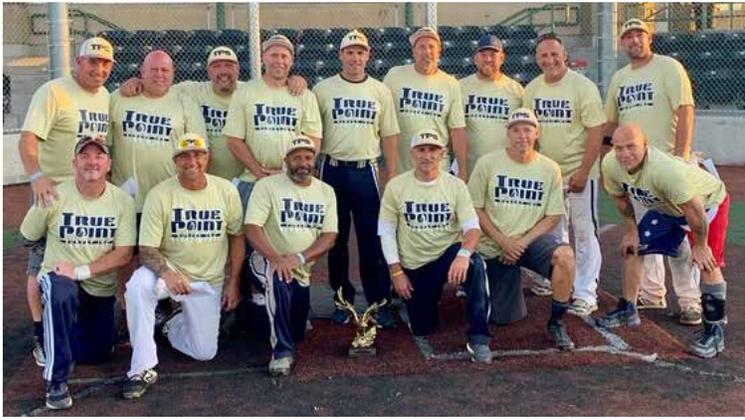
Firehouse Pub/Game Apparel/Absolut (MI): Doug Kett, Dennis Nourry, Robin Roberts, Don Sikora, Jeff

Continued on Next Page



Sidwinders (AZ) Men's 75 Major Champions

World Masters Champs All-Tourney Teams



Giant Steel/TRUE Point Survey (NY) Won Men's 40 Major Division

Continued from Previous Page

Graus (Team MVP).

Suncoast Adidas (FL): Kyle Cowart, Rhodney Donaldson.

Men's 40 Major

Giant Steel/TRUE Point Survey (NY): Angelo Marsella, Ciro Cascella, Ralph Mordente, Carlo Cannone, Charles Baumgartner, Gary Fontana (Team MVP).

Giannilli's II (PA): Mike Koerntgen, James Caterino, Mark Carns, Gary Noonan.

Midwest Elite (MO): Timothy Sanders, Corey Jaggie.

Men's 40 AAA

Mission: Possible (PA): Robert Marcks, Keith Simmons, Chad Gerstenberg, Ryan Hogan, Christopher Van Luvanee, Shawn Fillman (Team MVP).

Torgi Trucking (WA): Chad Gillingham, Leon Tolentino, Joshua Hicks, Rich Torgison.

Gigantes O.C. (MD): John Kindley, Charlie Piekanski, Matt Boden.

Women's 40 Major

Dudley/Greenspace (KS): Tawna Williams, Christian Dowling, Carrie Kaberline, Shannon Higginbotham, Cara Coughenour.

Kryptonite (FL): Sara Payne, Karen Hunger, Colleen

Smith, April Blake, Valorie Mullins (Team MVP).

Women's 40 AAA

UT-Relics: Kathy Christiansen, Marty Hurtado, Kellina Whiting, Malia Krogstad, Heather Bernard.

Custom Truck (NV): Holly Schmillen (Team MVP), Kelly Field, Christina Jenkins, Chris Evans.

Pro Moves (CA): Heather Michaelis, Lisa Maxey, Natalie Parsons, Lori Jarrells (Team MVP).

Saints (AZ): Ramona Llerenas, April Bosley.

Women's 40 AA

Shut-D XP (HI): Rochelle Poaha (Team MVP), Jennifer Samson, Bobbie-Jo Victorino, Toni Elia-Mendiola, Nancy Harper, Sunshine Taketa.

Session Four

Men's 50 Major Plus

J.K. Inc./Easton (CA): Johnny Bailey, Scott Logan, Ernie Gutierrez, Ron Hayes, Brian Wheatfill.

Fence Brokers Team Kitty/Worth Miken (FL): Andy Purcell, Reynaldo Gutierrez, Albert Davis, Dal Beggs.

Suncoast Adidas (FL): Terry Patesel, Hank Garris, Darryl Waddy.

Mark Thomas Law &



J.K. Inc./Easton (CA) won the Men's 50 Major Plus Division

BPA (PA): William (Kirby) Murphy, Tim Cress.

Men's 50 Major

Phoenix Tube (NJ): Chris Giordano, Joseph Hennessy, Rob Clancy, Bill Prezioso, Nick Martini.

Deluxe Bakery (NJ): David DeSantis, William Sampolski, Robert Cleaver, Rick Brown.

Dudley Lightning (MO): Dennis Turner, Jim Bathon, Troy Kerr.

Team Dudley/East Coast/Noble's Painting (MD): Norman Forbes, Russ Ramsey.

Men's 50 AAA

50 Degrees (MO): Rodney Lofton, Jack Meredith,

Stephen Cartwright, Lamont Griffin, Derick Stevenson.

Hawaiians (HI): Mike Moniz, Richard Hosoda, Clarence Alcoran.

Big Hurt/Draft Picks (IL): Larry Mueller, Tim Walker.

Men's 50 AA

Oregon Contractors Mobile App: Jeff Bushor, Willis McCollum, Allen Walters, Billy Luisi, Bob Downs.

Manifest (TX): Steve Garcia, Steven Cantu, Wayne Tysinger, Andy Santiago.

Gulf Coast Hurricanes (LA): Michael Rolerat, Troy Parker, Mike Cekinovich.

Continued on Next Page



50 Degrees (MO) won the 64-team Men's 50 AAA Division

World Masters Champs All-Tourney Teams



Oregon Contractors Mobile App won the Men's 50 AA Division

Continued from Previous Page

Women's 50 Major

Old School (CA): Sabrina Bobkowski (Team MVP), Jana Sissenstein, Patty Felker, Deena Dobbins, Donna Vandagriff, Alma Guzman.

Karphone (CA): Gretchen Gruber, Elena Song, Gina Oliver, Lillie Green.

Florida Girls

Arizona Dream Team: Shelly Patrick, Terri Davis, Sonya Fultz (Team MVP).

Women's 50 AAA

50 Caliber KC (MO): Joyce Hickmon, Michele Henning, Sheryl Meyer, Emma Harris, Tracy Hasty.

NW Lady Legends (WA): Nedra Jerry, Kelli Asbjornsen, Theresa Gotter, Lora Flewelling, Lisa Bull (Team MVP).

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please submit them to anthony@seniorsoftball.com.



Old School (CA) won the Women's 50 Major Division



50 Caliber KC (MO) won the Women's 50 AAA Division

World Class All-Tourney Rings By Jostens

Players, be sure to commemorate any of your All-Tournament selections from 2019, as well as championship victories, by purchasing your one-of-a-kind ring from Jostens, maker of championship rings for MLB, NFL, NHL, and NBA.

Contact Cindy Johnson via email cindy.johnson@jostens.com or by phone 1-800-854-7464 (ext. 56533) for more information.



Winter National Champs All-Tourney Teams

LEE COUNTY, Fla. - The 19th Annual Winter National Championships, held here, Nov. 5 - 10, kicked off the 2020 season.

To read the complete recap that appeared in the last newsletter, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The top three finishing teams in each division earn all-tournament selections, with first place earning five selections, second place receiving four, and third place getting three.

Men's 65/70 Major Plus

Team Florida/Hollis Appraisals: George Roberts, Ronald Scott, Tony Vodola, Greg Wacha, Dave Motta.

Venom 70 (FL): Dennis Schroeder, James Davidson, David Clover, David Whitney.

Bradford White/Jersey Masters 70 (NJ): Richard Boehmer, E. Gary Krause, Lou Vilotti.

Men's 65 Major

Ted Todd Insurance (FL): Norman Edwards, Manuel (Mike) Correa, David White, William Sorenson, Paul Steinitz.

Beef O'Brady's Southern Trace (FL): Randy Murgittroyd, Rick Rivard, Bob Winder, Donald Geisler.

Slug-A-Bug (FL): Stephen (Matt) Matson, Rickie Harder, Ray Mazara.

Men's 65 AAA

Texas Thunder: Thomas Rizzo, Harold (Butch) Warden, Ricky Latiolais, Glenn Scattergood, Michael Beard.

Universal Softball Team (OH): Robert Walker, Bill Friedlinghaus, Rex Hicks, Terry Conley.

Long Island Jaguars Red (NY): Michael Crocco,

Stephen Cohen, Thomas Frierson.

Men's 65 AA

Kentuckiana (IN): Greg Ellerkamp, David Stringer, John Hall, Charlie Duggins, Richard Heil.

Action Auto Parts (RI): Jim Gemma, Gerry Deshaies, Tom Kopytko, Donald Ardito.

Robinson's Furniture/OTS (DE): Steve Carey, Jerry Foley, David Grimshaw.

Men's 70 Major

Frankie Brinn (FL): Charles Martin, Gary Nicolay, John Smutnick, Marvin Swosinski, Jim Shingledecker.

Men's 70 AAA

Long Island Jaguars (NY): George Bundt, James O'Gara, Ronald Ray, Ken Kohn, William (Butch) Schultheis.

Tabor Franchi VFW (RI): Kevin Lipsett, Thomas Mooney, James McMahon, Steven Aldrich.

Florida Southern Force: Gary Bowers, Carl Roberts, Frank Tomolison.

Men's 75/80 Platinum

Venom 75 (FL): David Kester, Bob Buchanan, Dave Sellars, Michael Marcum, Alan Balfour.

Chadwell Supply 75 (FL): Gene Smith, Miguel Rodriguez, Billy Scarbrough, Ronald Russell.

Florida Investment Properties 80: Thomas Sides, Ray Dye, Jacob Wood, John Fournier.

Men's 75 AAA

Blaze/Ted Todd Insurance (FL): Herman Griffith, Bill Hoover, Neil Bishop, Esteban Castro, Dale Marker.

Indianapolis Classics (IN): Bob Willoughby, Steve Zwick, John Loiacano, Dick Douglass.

Men's 80 AAA

New York Statesmen: Art Barnes, Evan Lloyd, Marvin Kravitz, Douglas Hogue, Robert Wardle.

Cape Cod Sharks (MA): Robert Robidoux, Ray Castellano, Gerald Street, Robert Blakeslee.

Men's 85 Platinum

ProHealth Legends (MN): Norman Ellis, Robert Lenzmeier, Stephen Agard, R.C. Brown, Norris Kruse, Dave Hunt.

Center For Sight (FL): Roger Thresher, Dwight McVicker, David Drakulich, Tom Ingham.

Men's 40 Platinum

Suncoast Adidas (FL): Philip White, Rafael Negron, Tony Elrod, Rhodney Donaldson, Kyle Cowart.

Men's 50 Platinum

Team TBA (CT): Gary Mendillo, Jeffrey Rodo, Keith Anderson, George Legierse, Reggie Moore.

Suncoast/Adidas/Shades (FL): Darryl Waddy, Paul Gilligan, Jose Santiago, Lee Trotter

Men's 50 AAA

Avalon Insurance (FL): Rick Notaro, Regis Easler, Tom Hinkle, Steven Ward, Joe Galewski.

PA Senior Hitmen: Scott Dietrich, Brent McFeaters & Terry Miller.

Men's 55 Major Plus

RBC/Team Miken-Worth (FL): Richard Clark, Reynaldo Gutierrez, Arnaldo Torres, Alan Tanner, Denny Russo.

Suncoast/Adidas/Shades (FL): David Bogatz, Jerry Reynolds, Larry Veahman, Dave Crawley.

Men's 55/60 Platinum

Action Auto Parts 55 (RI): David Tokanel, Jeff Bloch, Steven Dupont, Ernest Bacon, Robert Smith.

Derby City 55 (KY): Anthony Ferrell, Hank Adams, Donny Harper, Tim Powell.

K & I 55 (IN): Kevin Jones, Tim Smith, Dennis Williams.

Men's 55 AAA

Twin Trees (NY): Michael Scanlon, John Martin, Jack Durant, Edward Bragg, Michael Garvey.

Palm Beach Thunder (FL): Joseph Candela, Jay Mattatall, Bryan Douglass, Daniel Woodcum.

Maryland Classics (MD): John Hickman, Bill Beckett, Joe Valentino.

Men's 60 Major

Louisville Senior Sluggers (KY): George Roberts, Robert Hauke, Jeffrey Connor, Stephen (Frank) Hardin, Keith Springer.

Action Auto Parts (RI): William Lee, Alfred Borges, Ken Franklin, Randall Fiske.

High Street Bucs II (MD): David Maertens, Mark Frastak, Daniel Heinrich.

Men's 60 AAA

Vector Scorpions (FL): Thomas Brown, Michael Mouton, Ernest (Skip) Ryan, Bob Niderno, Dale Blankenship, Michael Chnupa.

Northeast JackHammers 2 (NY): Jerry Passamonte, Rick Fitzgibbon, Charles (Mike) Wallace, Daniel Kelley.

Playmakers (WI): John Pyszka, Steve Burbick, Dave Gerdman.

Men's 60 AA

Glory Daze (KY): Danny Hall, Denny Hall, Roger Cochran, Steven Bell, David Johnson.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please submit them to anthony@seniorsoftball.com.



ADIDAS TEAM SPECIAL

SUNCOAST TEAM

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MSRP: \$70



ICON Trainer

BY3300 | BY3301

MSRP: \$75



Vigor Bounce

BW0399 | BB8380

MSRP: \$70



Vigor Bounce

BW0401

MSRP: \$70



Speed Trainer SMU

B41489

MSRP: \$70



Winter World Champs All-Tourney Teams

PHOENIX - The 2019 Winter World Championships, held here Nov. 12-17, kicked off the first SSUSA qualifier of the 2020 season, West of the Mississippi.

To read the complete recap that appeared in the last newsletter, please [CLICK HERE](#).

The top three finishing teams in each division earn all-tournament selections, with first place earning five selections, second place receiving four, and third place getting three.

Men's 65 Major Plus

Timberworks/Adidas (CA): Murray Williams, Ron Barnhart, Kenneth Vaught, Hank Alonzo, Steve Hillman.

AZ Ancient: Dave Quenzler, Duane Hopkins, John Barresi, Dennis Dalton.

Men's 65/70 Platinum

Arizona Scorpions 65: Tommy Burrell, Reyes Gonzales, Bruce McClain, Sam Newby, Rick Oien.

Scrap Iron High Octane 65 (CO): Nicholas Longo, James Gowdy, Terry Roberts, Larry Voorhees.

OMEN 70 (CA): Ludwig Nordahl, Wayne Ross, Thomas Ott.

Men's 65 AAA

Sidewinders (AZ): Ron Scrivner, Rob Merrill, John Miller, Mike Cahill, Dale Gressman.

Oshkosh Ambassadors (WI): Bob Amundson, Greg Kargus, Rollie Johnson.

Men's 65 AA

Blue Chips (IL): Rodney Hunter, Dean Porzel, Ronald Michalski, Dan Kairis, Charles Pionczynski.

911 Softball Club (CA): Eloy Chavez, Larry Chavez, David Olivas, Dave Puentes.

New Mexico Boomers: Julio Rios, Dean Bearup, Jose Payan.

Men's 70 Major

Sidewinders (AZ): Orie McDonald, Larry Adams, Mike Staudt, Alan Caillouette, Sebastian Muzio.

Desert Bats (AZ): David Lingen, Robert Wicks, Lawrence Kaufmann, Paul Gayer.

Tri-State Diamondbacks

(NM): Jerry Hester, Spence Preston, Ronald Brooks.

Men's 70 Silver

Last Call (NV): Larry Berger, Kenneth Lamb, Gary Landaburu, Ernie Cozzalio, Richie Velasquez.

Chicago Strikers (IL): Bob Darrah, Larry Hall, Rob Jesk, Tony Inzerillo.

USA Patriots (OK): Charlie Myers, Bobby Pruitt, Michael Seraphin.

Men's 75 Major Plus

Sidewinders (AZ): Jerry Bianchi, Billy Kee, Frank Mower, Ronald Wiebold, Chuck Gibson.

Men's 75 Gold

Tri-State Diamondbacks: Roger Assink, Ed Sullivan, John Florence, Ted Roluffs, Leigh Charboneau. / Midwest Legends (NE): Marvin Carr, Ronald Peterson, Edward Rastowski, Larry Stolte, Edward Tworek.

Arizona Outlaws: Manuel Hurtado, Thomas Grubb, Lenny Mykland. / Triple Play: Fred Pratt, Ron Swenson, Doyle Daniel.

Men's 80 Major

Scrap Iron Grey Berets (CO): Joseph DeCristofaro, Paul Durbin, Tom Imming, Robert Bush, Robert Fontaine.

Emerald (WA): Bob Lennon, Jim Dolman, Don Crandall, Fred Vanouck.

Minnesota Masters: Ken Koch, Larry Michels, Stephen Agard.

Men's 80/85 Gold

Sidewinders 80 (AZ): Howard Schaber, Joseph Siegele, Arvid Peterson, Wayne Sutton, Larry Benjamin.

Git-R-Done 80 (CA): Ronald Quarantino, Bob Quarantino, Charles Barracato, David Boone.

Hui Ohana (HI): Guy Ruiz, Albert Apo, Terence Kimura.

Arizona Prospectors 85: Jack Scott, John Vignati, Robert McElrea.

Men's 40 Major Plus

Roster Check (AZ): David Block, Dominic Fratus, Jimmy Zampier, Shane Pullen.

Men's 40 Major

EPT (TX): Artie Ramos, Anthony Ramos, Gabe Lara, Chris Locke, Rusty Harris.

Boomtown (NV): Nick Davidson, Mike Bittle, Victor Souza.

Men's 40 Gold

4 Base Error Softball (AZ): Ryan Mittendorf, Nathan Boisvert, Reginald Jackson, Thomas Hall, Juan Reynoso.

Whatever (AZ): Alvaro Yanez, A.J. Garcia, Don Schenck.

Men's 50 Major

Homer Lovers (ON, Canada): Kevin Bruder, James Bridge, Scott Watson, Grant Garrett, Steve Daize.

Thunderstruck (AZ): Chris Carda, Greg Milbrandt, Randy Pongratz.

Men's 50 AAA

Maher Homes Nebraska Elite: Rick Colwell, Brian Kotlich, Rich Morse, Scott Opfer, Michael Edison.

Romo's Trouble (TX): Ronnie Esparza, Lawrence Tucker, Leon Mosby, Robert Fuentes.

ETX: Thomas Clayton, David McDavid, Michael Hackett.

Men's 55 Major

Doerflinger (WA): James Buchanan, Bob Hubbard, Kevin Juma, Brad Doerflinger, Jeff Small.

Arizona Old School: Gino Fiasche, Barry Jackson, Rod Gibson, Willie Goolsby.

Scrap Iron/Rocky Mountain Thunder (CO): Michael Wilmer, Ken Lindow, John Corlett.

Men's 55 AAA

Team Southwest/Woodies (NM): Mike Gonzales, Oton Moreno, Randy Case, Kevin Ferraro, Byron Hollister.

Hustle (TX): Joe Aragon, Pedro Resendiz, Oscar Sigala Puga.

Men's 55 AA

Spin Tees (WA): Todd Arndt, Grant Brown, Dominic Dunn, Mariano Benavides, Kevin Johnson.

Men's 60 Major

Hawaii Five-O: Vern Ramie, Fabian Loo, Mark Gomes.

AZ Legends: James (Dusty) Lee, Alex Carrasco, Dan Melosi, Bruce Thompson.

Arizona Old School: Jarvis Quenga, Paul Cooley, Michael Gregg.

Men's 60 AAA

Weekend Warriors (CA): Mike Price, Richard Cruz, John (Jack) Buss, Kent Skidmore, John Leavitt.

Sidewinders (AZ): Randy Tompkins, Mike Braman, Bruce Thaete, Dennis Dalton.

Vancouver USA Woolly (WA): Gerhard Greve, Jose Villalpando, Charles Hudson.

Men's 60 AA

Texas Legends: Nate Willett, Shawn McKenzie, Bert Feinberg, Bill Huston, Joseph Ylda.

El Paso Bad Boys (TX): Miguel Medrano, Sam Terrazas, Vince Gomez, Leonso Barraza.

Full Throttle (AZ): Steven Giese, Kevin McCoy, Lyman Thompson.

Women's 40 Major

Colorado Ohana: Tyressa Johnson, Tanya Norton, Alyson Carter, Becky Gee, Rebekah Ratzell.

Utah Relics: Jayme McWidener, Virginia Benard, Heather Bernard.

Women's 40 AAA

Tharaldson Softball (NV): Rhonda Hilpiper-Maier, Crystal Schubitzke, Heidi Raymond, Jennifer Handy, Danelle Murphy.

Saints (AZ): April Bosley, Kimmie Mars, Anita Matas.

Women's 40/50/55

NW Lady Legends 50 (WA): Lisa (Bully) Bull, Maria Christy Romo, Helen Balabanis, Kelli Asbjornsen, Theresa Gotter.

Women's 70

Saints Express (CA): Beverly Burger, Susan Cary, Cheryl Linendoll, Sylvia Salazar, Lila Spiritwalker.

Spirit (CA): Bernadette Garcia, Pam Bedwell, Diane Toomey, Annie Gronau.

LV Neons (NV): Pat Lawlis, Marcia Payson, Barbara Lang-Ruzic.

Managers, if your all-tournament selections are missing, please submit them to anthony@seniorsoftball.com.



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Hawaiian Cruise Adventure of a Lifetime



The United States hosted the seventh annual Pacific Rim Championships, welcoming five other nations to Hawaii.

Softball News Report

HAWAII – Nine players from China and Hong Kong joined about 30 American Senior Softball Players to form three international teams and compete in a series of games against teams on Maui, in Kona and on Kauai in October.

And along the way something amazing happened – players who didn't speak the same language and came from vastly different cultures became teammates and friends.

“The beauty of sports is that it constantly proves that building teamwork through sportsmanship can create bridges across differences as vast as culture and as deep as different languages,” said Terry Hennessy, SSUSA chief executive officer and president of the Pacific Rim Federation.

The teams cruised together on the Pride of America ship and played together on the three islands after the Pacific Rim Championships

concluded in Oahu Oct. 25.

The United States hosted the 7th Annual Pacific Rim Championships in Hawaii with teams from Canada, China, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong and America.

About a dozen players and friends on the China and Hong Kong teams decided to join about 50 American players and their families on the cruise after the championships concluded.

The international teams played against teams that included Maui Mayor Mike Victorino (the father of MLB All Star Shane Victorino) and Bob Fitzgerald (a candidate for mayor of the Big Island). On Kauai, Mayor Derek Kawakami didn't play, but showed up to cheer on the winning Kauai team.

The more experienced American players spent time working with a number of the Chinese players. Softball is relatively new in China, so some of the players were not



As part of the Hawaiian Cruise, Maui Mayor Mike Victorino (father of MLB All-Star Shane Victorino), a member of the Dragons (purple jersey) is honored during a pregame ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 27. Teams from Maui and three combo USA/China teams competed against each other.

very experienced in the sport.

However, one of the Chinese players had played on the national China team and earned Best Defensive Player honors on the USA White team.

Each team selected top players including:

USA White Team, man-

aged by John Fournier of Florida: Most Valuable Player Larry Feeler of Florida, Best Offense Mike Quigley and Best Offense Xueming of China.

USA Blue Team, managed by Ed Schell of Hawaii: Most Valuable Player Bobby Davis of Florida, Best Offense Bob Hubbard of Washington and Best Defense Jim Goff of Iowa.

USA Red Team, managed by Terry Hennessy: Most Valuable Player Dave Prins of Iowa, Best Offense Mike Davis of Illinois and Best Defense, Dale Myers of Washington.



SSUSA members line up during a pre-game ceremony.

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Create Personal My Social Security Account

By Jack Sirard
Senior Softball News

With the coming of the New Year, Social Security recipients can expect to see a little more in their monthly check from Uncle Sam.

And by a little, I mean precisely that. The government is boosting payouts for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits by just 1.6 percent.

In fact, the pay increase is much less than the 2.8 percent that we received this year, and only a smidge higher than the average of 1.4 percent over the last 10 years.

For the typical beneficiary, that works out to about an extra \$24 a month, or \$288 a year. If you want to see how you measure up with your retiree peers, know that the average retirement check of \$1,479 in 2019 will rise to \$1,503 a month when the COLA kicks in in January, according to the Social Security Administration.

And while the 69 million Americans who will be pocketing the extra money will take anything they can get these days, it certainly won't lead to any dramatic change in their lifestyles.

AARP notes that Social Security is the largest source of retirement income for most retirees, so the 1.6 percent COLA increase, while modest, will help Social Security beneficiaries and their families a bit as they try to keep up with rising prices.

The cost-of-living adjustment is tied to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

However, as most seniors already know, the annual COLA amount typically does not keep pace with all the increases in living expenses that most seniors face, including housing, food, transportation and, especially, health care and prescription drugs.

In fact, AARP's own research has found that retail drug prices increased by twice the rate of inflation during 2017, and have exceeded the inflation rate for

at least 12 consecutive years.

Of course, it's not really a raise in the truest sense of the word given that COLA is merely designed to keep pace with, not outpace, inflation.

While Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail in early December about their new benefit increase, most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their my Social Security account.

The government urges those who haven't signed up for an online account to do so at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Through their personal my Social Security account, people can check personal information and conduct business with Social Security. If they already receive Social Security benefits, they can do things like change direct deposit online, and if they need proof of their benefits, they can print or download a benefit verification letter from their account.

Social Security points out that people not yet receiving benefits can use their online account to get a personalized statement, which provides earnings history information as well as estimates of future benefits.

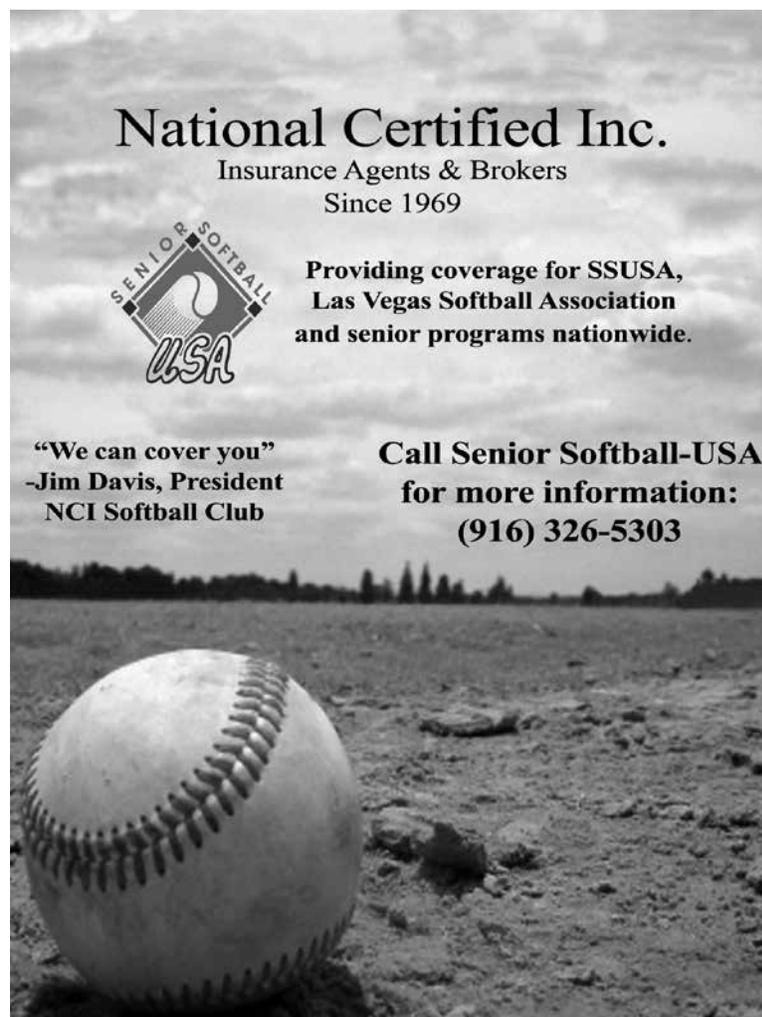
The portal also includes a retirement calculator and links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability, and Medicare benefits.

In addition,

Social Security has launched a dedicated online form at <https://oig.ssa.gov> to receive reports from the public of Social Security-related scams. These scams — in which fraudulent callers mislead victims into making cash or gift card payments to avoid arrest for purported Social Security number problems — skyrocketed over the past year to become the largest type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission.

To combat these scams, Social Security will use the new online form to capture data that will be analyzed for trends. Those getting the calls are urged to use the new online form to report Social Security phone scams including robocalls and live callers, as well as email, text, and in-person scams.

Jack Sirard is a retired nationally syndicated financial columnist and Senior Editor for Senior Softball News.



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