

2009 OLYMPIC WINNERS IN SAN FRANCISCO, 75+NJ NATURAL'S

It was quite a chore getting decent 75 years-and-over ball players that could still move, let alone run, for the "2009 SENIOR OLYMPICS" in San Francisco, California. About one month before the Olympics, I had 18 pretty good ball players.

And then it hit.

One of my best hitters and pitchers Rich Palmer had to get a knee replacement. Oh well, I still had a good pitcher in Chet Kenal. On the day we were leaving, he had to get his wrist operated on. OK, I could still pitch a little. Then I lost Paul Oliver one of my best hitters also to a knee operation. OK, we are down to 14 now. The Gremowitz brothers canceled out because of a relatives wedding. Wow, what next? Unfortunately Dick Pierce became ill and now we are down to 13; a couple of others guys changed their minds the last minute - down to 11. Another eased out because of an illness. Wow down to 10.

I was seriously thinking of canceling, but the 10 remaining guys were really

adamant about playing so we took the plane that morning into San Francisco.

The first day we got there I heard from an old High School buddy, Charlie Johnson, who lived in San Francisco and he stated he wanted to see a couple of games; but he was currently on vacation in Lake Tahoe. I guess he must have heard the disappointment in my voice because he then said, "I am flying down tonight and would like to host your team and family members to a dinner."

I eagerly accepted and boy what a diner and great time we had. We had 22 ball players from the 70-75's plus some spouses. It was certainly one of the highlights of our stay.

When I went to the Captains meeting I got quite a surprise. They told me no other 75' teams had qualified so we automatically get the gold medal but if we liked we could play against three 70's teams. Well we certainly were going to play and play we did. It seems five years makes quite a difference because we didn't win any of the games although we almost did.

Overall the trip, the camaraderie and the great food made it very worthwhile. A good time was had by all and I'm hoping we can do it again, with a few more ball players in 2011 when we play in Houston, Texas. I'm already looking for guys and I know it's 2 years away but time flies when you're having fun.

Tony Naturale



Top row, left to right, Vince Mazzilli, Jack Cherry, Bob Baker, Gordon Lamatty, Harry Keyishian, Doc Elman, Tom Michaels. **Bottom row,** Herb Slovis, Tony Naturale, Tino Hernandez, Rev Andy Johnson.

OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

Following a Dream...The National Senior Olympic Games was held last year in Palo Alto, California, and the theme for these Olympics was LONG LIVE THE CHALLENGE. Fifty years ago if you told the players on the New Jersey Highwayman, an over 70's softball team, they would be playing for a gold medal in the National Senior Olympics, they would say "impossible". The Highwayman on their Field of Dreams, on Sunday August 9, 2009, completed this task by winning their 8th game out of 9. They won their GOLD MEDAL.

Top Row-Left to Right: Dan MacDonald, Fran Forte, Ed Dzialo, Alex Strashinsky, Bob Anderson. **Middle Row:** Charlie Mandrik, Manager **Bottom Row:** Alan Schulman, Nick Lahotsky, Rob Haugstatter, Art Burner, Ron Chiorello, Karl Horst.



JERSEY SHORE HOSTS 46-TEAM NORTHEAST CHAMPS

Cape May, NJ - The picturesque historic Cape May area was host to the 2nd annual Northeast Championships in late September as 46 teams competed for regional titles and coveted berths in SSUSA Tournament of Champions.

The tournament brought the best of New England together for six days under balmy skies and light breezes for the last major event prior to the World Championships.

"Everything about the Northeast Championships is just comfortable. The Jersey Shore is beautiful and offers so many opportunities for great softball and an enjoyable time, and the local support is second to none," said SSUSA's Executive Director, Fran Dowell, who was on site as tournament director.

The tournament began on Tuesday with the 65+ and more senior groups competing for championships in four divisions of play at the Goshen-Davies Sports Complex, with only one team escaping the week unbeaten.

In the Men's 65+ Major division, the Jersey Jaguars came all the way back from a first round bracket loss to defeat the top seeded Pittsburg Gold for the title in the "If Game" (19-4).

Here is the list of winners:

MEN'S 50-PLATINUM

1. Sweet Construction 50's (NJ)
2. Deluxe Bakery (NJ)
3. East Coast Softball Club (NY)

MEN'S 50-AAA

1. High Street Bucs (MD)
2. Eagle Tile/Who's on First (MD)
3. Shark Sports (NY)

MEN'S 55/60-PLATINUM

1. New York Statesmen/EPA (NY)
2. Sweet Construction 55's (NJ)
3. Tri-State Merchants (PA)

MEN'S 55-AAA

1. New Jersey Hitmen (NJ)
2. Bathtub Billy's/Rally Time (NY)
3. Freddie's Shooters (MD)

MEN'S 60-MAJOR

1. HMR 60's (PA)
2. Monkey Joe's Big Nut Co. 60's (NJ)

MEN'S 60-AAA

1. New York Streaks (NY)
2. Stahl's Post #30 (DE)
3. Jersey Masters (NJ)

MEN'S 65-MAJOR

1. Jersey Jaguars (NJ)
2. Pittsburgh Gold (PA)
3. Monkey Joe's Big Nut Co. 65's (NJ)

MEN'S 65-AAA

1. Cape Cod Whalers (MA)
2. Maryland Tri-County Office Equipment (MD)
3. Hamels 65's (MD)

MEN'S 65-AA

1. Long Island Jaguars (NY)
2. Syracuse Cyclones (NY)

MEN'S 70-GOLD

1. Back Office Associates (MA)
2. Peach Tree Restaurant (PA)
3. Hamels Cavaliers (VA)

WOODBRIIDGE TOWNSHIP WILL HOST NEW JERSEY SENIOR OLYMPICS IN 2010

September 10, 11, and 12. There is a very active softball population in New Jersey and we are hoping that your teams would like enter and be a part of the NJ Senior Olympics. Last year's games were very successful, and we are confident that this year will be even better, due to the fact that this is a qualifying year. The Nationals will be held in Houston, Texas, 2011. If you have any questions regarding the competition or any other information you may need, please contact Drew Tuttle,

Andrew.tuttle@twp.woodbridge.nj.us team Softball coordinator or Michael Garamella, Mjg129@aol.com Executive Director, New Jersey Senior Olympics Committee. You can also access our web site, NJSeniorOlympics.com The site is under construction and will be in operation shortly. We will be looking forward to your participation in this year's games and hope to hear from you.

NJSSA

"Wall Of Fame"

The New Jersey Senior Softball Association will begin to accept nominations to its newly created "Wall Of Fame."

The association will begin to honor those members who have shown "outstanding leadership and dedication to the senior softball program throughout the years."

Nominations and resumes should be sent to:

Bob Lorincz
13 South Brook Drive
Milltown, NJ 08850

Email:

Drboblorincz@hotmail.com

NJSSA Website

<http://njsseniorsoftball.com> or <http://njssa.us> can be accessed from your favorite web browser and either address will bring you to the official website.

Site selections are located along the left hand column. You may select any of the links to see what information is contained in each category. For example: select **Leagues**, select your county such as **Union County** and view the desired information. The selections are arranged with the most likely accessed appearing from top to bottom. Each county is setup differently depending on league organization and information maintained. Every player should view the website on a regular basis to get the latest schedule, standings and results for their league. Use the **Locations** link to find field locations and directions. Since almost everyone has a cell phone, managers should set up a group to text their players for rainouts, today's games, etc.

It would be great to have an individual from each county maintain and format their information for me so I can post it. Suggestions on the website can be sent to: njssa@hotmail.com. Have a safe and enjoyable softball season!

Bobby Lorincz