

## Scrap Iron News

### 2013 SSUSA Tournament of Champions

Two of our 2012 Scrap Iron teams participated in the 2013 Tournament of Champions event in Polk County Florida. The competition was outstanding and both of our Scrap Iron teams went up against teams that have been "Moved Up" for 2013. The Scrap Iron 55 Northern participated in a three team AA tournament. The other two teams in their bracket have been moved to AAA for 2013. Art Graabe's guys played them even up for this tournament and took second. The SI 65 Phiten team competed in the AAA division where three of the teams will be Major for 2013. Not surprising, the three Major teams took first, second, and third.

The tournament lived up to its billing of "The Best of the Best," and both the Northern and Phiten teams recommend the tournament. The special events included precision hitting, pitching, base running, and home run hitting contests and an All Star game. Scrap Iron's **Dennis Lutz** won a Miken bat for finishing first in the 70 and over home run hitting contest. SSUSA also brought in the Wounded Warriors Slow Pitch team to play the winner of the TOC All Star game. The Wounded Warriors showed no mercy on old guys and gave the All Stars a whipping.

The Wounded Warriors team was also the hit of the Banquet. All 1500 in attendance heard tremendous stories from our veterans who made great sacrifices to our nation.

### Spring World Championships

Mesquite, Nevada attracted 13 of our Scrap Iron teams for this first major tournament of 2013. Great weather and lush green grass were welcome changes for our teams. **Congratulations to the 65 Classics, and 70 Legacy teams for bringing home championships!** They are the Club's first qualifiers for the 2014 Tournament of Champions (TOC). Last year seven of our teams qualified for the TOC. This was a record for the Club, but it should be a short lived record. Several of our Scrap Iron teams are highly competitive and should qualify for the TOC before the 2013 season ends.

In addition to our two Champions, four other Scrap Iron teams finished second or third. They were:

Rocky Mountain Thunder 50 Major – Second

Coyotes 55 AA – Second

Force 70 AA – Second

Diamonds AA – Third

The next big tournaments for Scrap Iron teams will be the LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships and Rock N Reno.

### SSUSA Team Ratings

SSUSA has reviewed all team rankings and four Scrap Iron teams have had their ranking changed. The 55 Rockies, formerly 55 Northern, were elevated to AAA level, and the 60 Diamonds, 80s, and 60 Master

Collision teams dropped a level. Master Collision is not playing this year, but when they return in the future, they will be a Major team.

### **Scrap Iron Board Meeting**

The Scrap Iron Board of Directors met on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Club has 15 member teams for 2013. They are:

- 50 Aftershock Major
- 50 Rocky Mountain Thunder Major, formerly Rapid Erectors
- 55 Rockies AAA, formerly Northern
- 55 Coyotes AA
- 60 Diamonds AA
- 60 Freedom AA
- 60 Legends AAA
- 65 Classics AA
- 65 Diamonds AAA
- 65 Reds AAA
- 65 Phiten AAA
- 70 Force AA, formerly Reds
- 70 Legacy Major
- 75 AAA
- 80 AAA

For the first time, the Club has at least one mens team playing at each age level. This increases the opportunity for all of our members to “Move Up”, as we have those dreaded birthdays.

Dues for all players turning 74 and older during the year have been set at half of the dues for regular members. Dues in 2013 for regular members are \$175, and 74 and older members will pay \$87.50.

**Remember that your dues are tax deductible.** The Scrap Iron Softball Club is 501(c)(3) organization.

The Board set 2013 team budgets at \$3,500. This is balanced budget approach. The Club bank account should not grow or shrink by more than a couple hundred dollars this year. **Thanks to all of our donors who helped us attain this \$3,500 budget figure with two more teams than in 2012.** Scrap Iron’s reputation will only improve in 2013. As a Scrap Iron member, you are of member of the largest and greatest Senior Softball club in the U.S.

### **Rocky Mountain Senior Games**

The Rocky Mountain Senior Games has added softball for the 2013 Games. Play will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Denver at Kennedy Park. The Scrap Iron Board approved these games for reimbursement. The Games will be limited to the first 20 teams that enter, and a committee from the Colorado Senior Softball Association (Wednesday morning leagues), and Scrap Iron will evaluate rosters to put teams in groups for play. Scrap Iron coaches have more complete information on this event if you are interested. The Rocky Mountain Senior Games will not lead to a berth in the 2013 National Games.

**Medical Cards**

The biggest hurdle for Scrap Iron members getting medical cards appears to be the need for a digital picture. Scrap Iron member, Jack Eberhard takes pictures at many SSUSA tournaments. Jack will be at most major tournaments and is willing to take individual photos of everyone on your team. Coaches can contact Jack at [jacktack@aol.com](mailto:jacktack@aol.com) to make arrangements.

Alan Wiechmann