

## Scrap Iron News

### Success for Our 60 Diamonds

Our 60 Diamonds is having a terrific year with wins almost everywhere they go. The Diamonds have won four tournaments in a row, the Southwest Championships in Las Vegas, the Texas State Championships in Houston, the Midwest Championships in Shawnee, and the Rocky Mountain Championships in Aurora. **Congratulations, Diamonds!!**

### Scrap Iron 50 Rocky Mountain Thunder Recognized

The 50 Rocky Mountain Thunder was recognized with the Sportsmanship Award for the 50s at the SPA World Tournament in Dalton, GA. The award was voted on by the SPA staff and the umpires. In addition to their excellent representation of our Club, the Thunder played well, finishing third in a 14 team field. The Thunder is having a strong year with two tournament victories, a second place, and two third place finishes.

### Rocky Mountain Championships

Twelve of our 15 Scrap Iron teams participated in the first Rocky Mountain Championships. The 50 Rocky Mountain Thunder, 55 Coyotes, 60 Diamonds, and the 65 Phiten won their divisions and qualified for the February 2014 Tournament of Champions (TOC). Five of our teams finished second, and two more finished third.

The tournament attracted 41 teams. This tournament like many other regional championships is a TOC qualifier. Many of these qualifiers compete for the same teams. Here's this season's entry numbers at regional championships:

<b>Championship</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Entries</b>
Copper Classic	Tucson, AZ	23
Southwest Championships	Las Vegas, NV	143
Atlantic Coast Championships	Loudoun County, VA	69
Northwest Championships	Portland, OR	34
Texas State Championships	Houston, TX	43
California State Championships	Placer County, CA	58
Midwest Championships	Shawnee, KS	56
Southern Championships	Birmingham, AL	25
<b>Rocky Mountain Championships</b>	<b>Aurora, CO</b>	<b>41</b>
Northern Championships	Lansing, MI	43
Northeast Championships	Syracuse, NY	32

The only tournament which stands out is the Southwest Championships in Las Vegas in April. The Southwest Championships, like the Rock'N Reno Challenge Cup with 204 entries, probably does well because of the location. Hopefully future years will have more entries, because our weather, location, and quality complex are hard to beat. Even with only 41 total entries, the majority of our teams had good competition and we didn't have to travel. SSUSA is working on 2014 tournaments, and very soon

we expect to be in discussions about the Rocky Mountain Championships and/or Western Nationals. Please give your coaches feedback about the tournament.

### **Western Nationals**

Five Scrap Iron team went to Sacramento to play the Western Nationals. Our two 55 AA teams faced off in a best two out of three for the right to play the National Championship game in Las Vegas during the SSUSA World Championships. The Coyotes defeated the Rockies twice in a pair of one run games.

### **Midwest Championships**

Three Scrap Iron teams participated in the Midwest Championships in Shawnee, KS. Our 60 Diamonds came home as Champions.

### **Tournament of Champions Qualifiers**

Six of our Scrap Iron teams have qualified for next winter's TOC. Last year we qualified seven teams, a record for the Club. The 2014 qualified teams are 50 Rocky Mountain Thunder, 55 Coyotes, 60 Diamonds, 65 Classics, 65 Phiten, and 70 Legacy. This tournament has been held for seven years, without a Scrap Iron champion. Maybe 2014 will be our year.

Alan Wiechmann