

DAILY NEWS



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2023 MSBL National Hall of Fame**Inductee: Alan Van Ness, League President, Sacramento MSBL***By Steve LaMontia, Director of Communications*

The Sacramento MSBL is one of the crown jewels of the MSBL nation. They are a major player in national tournaments and offer Sunday leagues, night leagues, winter-spring leagues, Golden division leagues, and manage to provide baseball for ages in divisions from 18-over to 68-over.

The guy in charge of this wonderful assortment of players is Alan Van Ness. I am honored to provide many stories covering many topics relating to Sacramento, and Alan is continually smack in the middle of all of them. Because of Alan's attention to duty and his passion for baseball, MSBL Founder and President, Steve Sigler, has inducted Alan into the 2023 class of the MSBL National Hall of Fame.

"This National MSBL Hall of Fame award is a recognition and appreciation award given to me," stated Van Ness. "However, everything I have accomplished is based on the support I receive from others. Many years of convincing my wife, family, managers, board members, and players that my ideas would benefit others and not just myself has been successful. I like to believe Sacramento is at the top of the list when it comes to National respect. So, this award given to me is humbling and very much treasured. Thank You." Alan is 60 years old, retired from Aerojet Rocketdyne, and lives in Lincoln, California. He is equally as busy off the field providing for his large family, alongside his wife, Teena. "I have 5 children; Justin and Stacy, and 3 step-kids, Heather, Levi, and Shelbee that we have raised and supported for 20 years. Teena and I also have 8 grandchildren. Teena has also made a lifetime commitment to MSBL. She has done so much for MSBL. Every recognition, award, or achievement I have received is because of her tireless support. My kids Heather, Levi, and Shelbee always participate in the charity fund raisers the SMSBL selects. Now the grandkids are getting old enough and they love to help." Weaving back to baseball, when did your MSBL career begin? "I joined SMSBL in 1996 after seeing an ad in the sports section of the local paper. (continued on page 3)

Win Or Go Home Today For Teams On The Bubble!



75+ Division Red Deer Legends pitcher, **Ray Johnson** was terrific, and almost unhittable during his teams 22-4 victory over the Canton Captains yesterday at Tempe Diablo Stadium.

Number Of Teams Qualifying for This Weeks Playoffs Vary By Division

45+ Cactus Teams Receive 1 Point for Playing an American Division Team

By Tom Prendergast

For many teams, today's game is like a playoff. Win and they advance, lose and they are out. Several teams have the same win loss record. In these cases, fewest runs allowed will prevail especially in the wildcard scenario. Needless to say it's pretty important to make sure your teams runs allowed totals - posted on the website and listed in the newsletter or correct. Also the "official standings" are listed in the newsletter. The Game On website doesn't always sort teams accurately and additional points awarded to teams don't show up on the website. So in the 45+ Cactus Divisions, teams that played (and lost to an American team), received a point. Once the playoff seeding's have been determined, they will be posted on line and Marvin (from the WS office), will notify all of the playoff teams with a phone call. During pool play participation division teams were required to bat 14. That requirement drops to 10 for playoff and championship games. And this year, team managers are required to submit (before the game begins), a playoff eligibility form, which shows how many games your players were in.

45+ Playoff Teams

American - all 3 teams
Cactus - 6 teams (top 2 teams in each division with 1st place receiving a bye) Next best 2 overall

60+ Playoff Teams

National - top 4 teams
Mountain - 6th vs 5th place
Cactus - 8 teams advance (top 3 in each division - next 2 teams with best overall record

75+ Playoff Teams

National - top 3 teams
American - 4th vs 1st place
3rd place vs 2nd place
Consolation games for the 4 teams not in the playoffs

No alcohol or tobacco products are allowed before - during or after the game at any MSBL World Series locations or stadiums!

MSBL WORLD SERIES DAILY NEWS

The MSBL WS office is located inside
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Located on the second floor

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Longtime MSBL veteran, **Alan Van Ness** with his wife, **Teena** after receiving his National MSBL Hall of Fame plaque at the field Tuesday

MSBL World Series Team Profile: Arkansas Diamonds, John Godfrey and Brian Carroll
By Steve LaMontia, Director of Communications

I am sure tired of seeing these guys! I say that with extreme affection and my tongue firmly entrenched in cheek. I have had the unfortunate experience of being roughly the same age as John Godfrey and his band of merry Diamonds from Arkansas so it seems we always play them. More often than not we are heading to the nightclub to shake off our defeat while they are headed to the motel for a good night's sleep to get ready for the playoffs. "We started coming to the World Series in the second year they held it and competed as an over-30 team, though we were somewhat older," explained 68-year-old manager and co-ordinator John Godfrey. "We are now in the 65-over division and hoping to remain competitive. Brian Carroll and I have always worked together to keep us coming. We seem to always be in the thick of the hunt but can't quite boast rings for every finger yet. We've fallen off the last couple of years but still have fun."

The Arkansas Diamonds started off as the Central Arkansas MSBL and changed to the Diamonds around 1995. Over all of those years they have also competed in, and won, the Father and Son division. "I was able to pitch back in the day and in 2004 or 2005 with my son in the Father and Son division (continued on page 3)

75+ National / American	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Team Cambria	4	0	0	8	15	1000
2 Sacramento Solons (N)	4	0	0	8	15	1000
3 Mudville 9	3	1	0	6	19	750
4 USA Volkers (N)	3	1	0	6	24	750
5 San Antonio Sox	2	1	0	4	24	667
6 Tri Valley Antiques (N)	1	2	0	2	37	333
7 Red Deer Legends	1	3	0	2	44	250
8 Canton Captains	1	2	0	2	53	333
9 Arizona Scorpions	1	2	0	2	21	500
10 RI/Puerto Rico Cardinals (N)	0	4	0	0	58	0
11 Cal Vets	0	4	0	0	73	0

45+ American Division	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Sacramento Redbirds	5	0	0	10	28	1000
2 Utah Rockies	4	1	0	8	34	800
3 Chicago North TSP's	2	2	0	4	39	500

45+ Cactus Division 1	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 So Cal Monarchs	5	0	0	10	1	1000
2 Des Moines Bruins	2	2	0	5	35	500
3 Spokane Cubs	1	4	0	3	49	200
4 Minnesota Bruins	1	4	0	3	80	200
5 East Coast Phillies	0	5	0	0	79	0

45+ Cactus Division 2	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Colt 45's	4	0	0	8	31	1000
2 Sonoma REBL	2	2	0	5	31	500
3 Arizona Giants	2	3	0	4	38	400
4 Tucson Nationals	2	3	0	4	48	400
5 Bakersfield Heat	2	3	0	4	51	400
6 OC Dodgers	1	4	0	3	42	200

60+ National / Mountain	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Tri Valley Tribute	4	1	0	8	21	800
2 San Antonio Lonestars	3	1	0	6	14	750
3 Envision NW Emeralds	3	2	0	6	32	600
4 Boston Wolfpack	3	2	0	6	39	600
5 Chicago MAXX Cubs	2	3	0	4	67	400
6 Sacramento Royals	1	4	0	2	43	200
7 Team Victory	1	4	0	2	48	200

60+ Cactus Division 1	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Mustangs Baseball Club	5	0	0	10	18	1000
2 North County Waves	4	1	0	8	26	800
3 Sonoma County Cardinals	3	2	0	6	46	600
4 Arizona Stallions	2	3	0	4	45	400
5 Las Vegas 60's	1	4	0	2	103	200
6 St Louis Pirates	0	5	0	0	79	0

60+ Cactus Division 2	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Motor City Firebirds	5	0	0	10	33	1000
2 South Bay Zephyrs	3	2	0	6	26	600
3 Vancouver Angels	3	2	0	6	59	600
4 Inland Angels	2	2	1	5	55	400
5 AAHS Saints Circumstance	2	3	0	4	50	400
6 Sacramento Rays	1	2	1	3	30	250
7 AZ/CT United	0	5	0	0	84	0

60+ Desert Division	W	L	T	Pts	RA	Win %
1 Seattle Rainers	4	0	1	9	54	900
2 Red Deer Legends	4	1	0	8	35	800
3 Racine Blues	3	1	1	7	53	600
4 Aussie Aces	3	2	0	6	49	600
5 Cal Vets	3	2	0	6	49	600
6 LA Sharks	2	3	0	4	50	400
7 Colorado Fossils	2	3	0	4	69	400
8 SP Orioles	2	3	0	4	63	400
9 OKC Classics	1	4	0	2	95	200
10 Bonedogs	0	5	0	0	118	0

45+ American/Cactus	
Tucson Nationals	10
Arizona Giants	1
Bakersfield Heat	9
OC Dodgers	8
Spokane Cubs	9
Utah Rockies	14
Sacramento Redbirds	14
Minnesota Bruins	3
Colt 45's	14
Sonoma REBL	8
So Cal Monarchs	11
Des Moines Bruins	8
East Coast Phillies	3
Chicago North TSP's	18
Utah Rockies	8
Bakersfield Heat	3
Minnesota Bruins	2
Spokane Cubs	17
Arizona Giants	3
Sacramento Redbirds	9
Chicago North TSP's	8
Colt 45's	10
So Cal Monarchs	17
East Coast Phillies	2
Sonoma REBL	5
Des Moines Bruins	9
OC Dodgers	8
Tucson Nationals	7
60+ National	
Tri Valley Tribute	14
Envision NW Emeralds	7
Boston Wolfpack	22
Chicago MAXX Cubs	6
Sacramento Royals	1
Tri Valley Tribute	15
Boston Wolfpack	14
Team Victory	10
Chicago MAXX Cubs	4
San Antonio Lonestars	24
75+ Division	
Tri Valley Antiques (Nat)	17
RI / Puerto Rico Cardinals (Nat)	1
Canton Captains	4
Red Deer Legends	22
USA Volkers (Nat)	21
Cal Vets	0
Team Cambria	16
Arizona Scorpions	1
Mudville 9	4
Sacramento Solons (Nat)	8

MSBL World Series Team Profile: Arkansas Diamonds, John Godfrey and Brian Carroll

(continued from page 2)

I was the winning pitcher in the championship game.

It was a combined no-hitter and it was also my second victory of the week. We won as Central Arkansas in only our second year at the World Series, but this one was special because it was with my son. I'll never forget it." The Diamonds won the 60-over Central Division championship in 2014, which was the cherry on top of many years of being ever so close. "I can't remember how many times we have been in the finals and couldn't quite get over the top. Maybe seven or eight times. But we are more optimistic being in the 65-Cactus division. We'll compete. We have eight players on this year's team that played in our first year so it will be a great time regardless." The 65-over divisions remain one of the most popular divisions in all of the World Series divisions. As you can see below, that division is packed with quality teams. The Diamonds will have to earn every victory! John has missed only one year of the World Series. "I want to emphasize the longevity of the Diamonds," John further explained.

"It is because of the nucleus of the guys who have always wanted to come back. Without Brian Carroll not taking the time, we probably would have folded five or six years ago. Brian is the glue that keeps everyone together. Brian is doing almost everything this year because I have so much on my plate. I am still trying to find a way to attend!" I asked John what prompted him to attend in the first place. I was maybe 34 at the time and was never a softball guy and still loved baseball. I still had some abilities, to a degree. I was coaching high school and legion so I was still involved in the game. The new league starting up in Arkansas sounded great and the World Series idea also grew on us. We all said 'we'll try it one time just to see.' Well, we know how that ended up!" John has dipped his toe into the younger division waters from time to time but it never took hold. "I asked John about a defining moment, along with any final comments. "2014 and winning the 60+ Central is the highlight. After finishing second so many times, it felt amazing. We always had confidence in our abilities and continued hanging on and it finally paid off. I'm happy for everyone who came along on the journey.

The other outstanding feature of this story is my partnership with Brian Carroll. Our association has been over 20 years and we both have talents in either organizing or managing and one would be lost without the other. Thank you, Brian."

2023 MSBL National HOF Inductee: Alan Van Ness, (continued from page 1)

All 28 years I have been involved in Sacramento, as part of the SMSBL.

In 2023 I played on the Spring League 50+ Giants, 50+ Sunday League Dragons, Night League 50+ Bombers, and the Golden League 60+ Giants. For tournaments I have my own 55+ Sac Rockets team. I also play on 60+ Sac Royals, and the Sac Cannons in the Father/Son division. These days, I mostly pitch and play first base. I used to play short and third before *Father Time* and eight surgeries slowed me down. It has never stopped me, though, and I haven't missed a World Series since my first one in 1998." We asked Alan about his playing resume as well as what helped mold him toward the road to Sacramento. We left this compelling trail in Alan's own words to better explain. "I played Little League in Horseheads, New York, where we won the league, district, and state championships. We lost the semi final to go to Williamsport. That time of my life I was a catcher. We then moved to Roseville, California, where I knew no one and was cut from my high school team. While playing catch one day with my cousin, a Big-League coach asked me if I ever pitched and said to come to tryouts. Sacramento has won more MSBL World Series rings than any other league. They continue to represent divisions across the board every October and more often than not, come home with some hardware. I asked Alan what some of his personal World Series achievements have been.

"After 18 years of going to Arizona and reaching the semi finals, I finally won a ring in 2016. It was with Sac Royals, managed by Jim Tygrett Denuzzi, who was my League President predecessor and mentor. I also play in Las Vegas and the Palm Springs Desert Classic every year." Is there a highlight or two beyond the ring in 2016? "Playing in the SMSBL and MSBL World Series Father /Son tournaments is always a highlight every year.

My tournament highlight on the field was a game I pitched and we lost. It was the final 45 Aluminum Bat Championship game. I pitched all 10 innings for the Auburn Braves (SMSBL) against the Rochester Red Wings. We were tied 4-4 from the fifth inning on, but lost 5-4. After the eighth, the Manager said to me that he didn't know who was going to win it, but every guy in that dugout couldn't believe their own home boy is shoving the ball up their azz. There were six players that were from the towns in the Southern Tier, New York where I played Little League!" Are there any individuals you would like to thank in helping your baseball career? "First is my wife Teena, because she has helped me with so many critical issues, tournaments, field issues, and even planted 11 trees at our new complex. I took over as President in 2014 from Jim Tygrett-Denuzzi and was very nervous. He helped me with many issues and taught me how to prioritize. I took that education and doubled the size of the league. I also can go to Lanny Ropke anytime to get his advice. The SMSBL scheduler is Jason Morris and I am grateful for his efforts in what is the most thankless job. Mike Egan has worked tirelessly on our fields and made the SMSBL fields the most sought-after fields in the Sacramento region. I also appreciate every SMSBL Board member. In conclusion, I am only echoing what many before me have said in receipt of their awards. None of these awards, or this way of life, is possible without Steve Sigler's vision. His drive to build the largest amateur team sporting event in the world is something we are all thankful for. So, *Thank You Steve!* I would also like to reiterate how grateful I am to have the support of MSBL, friends, and family. As my wife puts on her baseball products, 'You don't stop playing because you get old, you get old because you stop playing.' I don't plan on getting old. LOL!

60+ Cactus 1

Arizona Stallions
St Louis Pirates

18
5

North County Waves
Sonoma County Cardinals

12
3

Mustang Baseball Club
Las Vegas 60's

20
4

60+ Cactus 2

Vancouver Angels
Inland Angels

16
10

AZ/CT United
AAHS Saints of Circumstance

7
19

Motor City Firebirds
Vancouver Angels

19
8

AZ/CT United
South Bay Zephyrs

0
15

AAHS Saints of Circumstance
Sacramento Rays

0
15

60+ Desert

Red Deer Legends
Aussie Aces

10
4

Cal Vets
Colorado Fossils

12
10

Bonedogs
LA Sharks

1
16

SP Orioles
OKC Classics

28
11

Seattle Rainiers
Racine Blues

14
14

Aussie Aces

Cal Vets

16
1

Colorado Fossils
Red Deer Legends

9
17

Racine Blues
Bonedogs

24
7

LA Sharks
SP Orioles

6
20

OKC Classics
Seattle Rainiers

11
12

**MSBL WS
Clothing
Open Daily
9a - 7p**



75+ Division Team Cambria batter, **Ray Crawford** rips this pitch into center field yesterday, driving in two runs in a 16 - 1 victory.



75+ Div Arizona Scorpions pitcher, **Norm Cutliff** got the start yesterday



Canton pitcher, **Doug Price** floats this ball to the plate!

Left to right Canton Captains - George / Tom / Alan / Joe / Doug / Jim.



75+ Division Canton Captains team members all wearing the number 15 - as a tribute to the Yankees all star catcher, Thurman Munson. (right) Who died in a plane crash (that he was piloting) on August 2, 1979. Thurman Munson grew up in Canton, Ohio.



75+ Division Canton Captains base runner, **Doug Cole** slides into second base just ahead of the tag for a double in yesterday's game.



Dick Fitzgerald (Right) with 44-year battery-mate Ken Combs

Dick Fitzgerald Sets MSBL WS Record As The Oldest Pitcher To Win A Game

By Billy Jacobs, USA Volkers manager

Today the USA Volkers improved to 3-1 in the 75-over division of the MSBL World Series with a convincing win over the Cal Vets. The bigger story was that 88-year-old Dick Fitzgerald took the mound along with his battery-mate for 44 years, 82-year-old Ken Combs. Dick pitched four innings of shutout baseball today, all of them to Ken, after pitching five innings of no-hit baseball on Sunday against the Sacramento Solons before getting hit in his pitching arm by a line drive. Well done - Dick! TP

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75+ Team Cambria 1st baseman, **Chuck Schroeder** reaches for the baseball after it bounced off Arizona Scorpions batter / runner, **Richard Haynie** yesterday.