

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEW JERSEY SENIOR SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## PRINCETON VAN WINS SECOND STRAIGHT "A" DIVISION TITLE Mercer county team tops EPA for championship

For the first time in three years, the NJSSA 50+ State Tournament got a break from Mother Nature and completed its annual event.

### NJSSA 2008 50+ CHAMPIONS "A" DIVISION

With the late August sun brightly shining on two excellent days for softball games, Dom Pugliese's Princeton Van Service team out of Mercer County again captured the NJSSA 50's "A" division championship to repeat with an undefeated run through a field including top teams from Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Somerset, and Union counties.

Staying in the winner's bracket, Princeton Van finished 4-0 with victory margins of 10 or more runs being indicative of this potentially dynastic powerhouse.

The final game ended on an unfortunate note when two Princeton Van players collided in the outfield resulting in one player being carried off the field on a stretcher and sent to Centra State Medical Center. The player was later released from the Hospital after undergoing a CT scan for a possible concussion and was treated for lacerations both in and around the ear.

Second place honors were earned by George Terra-Nova's Ocean County EPA team that had to battle through six fatiguing games, three each day, losing twice to Princeton Van on the last day in this double elimination tournament.

Sweet Construction from Somerset County is accorded third place by virtue of its two wins over Buffy's Tavern of Union County though both teams finished with 3 wins and 2 losses.

Following Buffy's were MCC Hammer (Middlesex), Higgins (Monmouth), Check X Change (Middlesex), Edgewood Properties (Middlesex), Hopewell Valley Bank (Mercer), and Hussy's (Ocean).

— Written by Charlie Dilkes.



Dom Pugliese (right) manager of Princeton Van and George Terra-Nova manager of EPA accepting "A" Division trophies.

### NJSSA 2008 50+ CHAMPIONS "B" DIVISION

In the "B" Division, 507 Main Street, out of Belmar in Monmouth, captured the title despite the loss of some key players.

They played Darrows twice and Highlanders 3 times, including the final game winning 16-6. Many of 507's regular players were playing on other teams in the state tournament. This left players in positions they don't normally play.

Throughout the entire tournament only 2 errors were committed by the defense. Bob Camano played an outstanding shortstop and Jim Mulholland was solid at third...both positions they were not used to playing. Time after time the defense pull the Main Streeters out of tough spots with great plays and kept the other teams from scoring.

Pete Andriacchi kept the opposing batters off stride through out every game by pitching one great game after another and fielding the middle. Without most of the big hitters except Tony Vodola, the offense all had key base hits and moved runners along. Jim Mulholland made only 3 outs in the entire tournament for a batting average of 800. It was most of all a team win every player contributed offensively and defensively.



Standing (left-right) Emil Renaudo, Pete Travers, Don Wisniewski, Jeff Lee, Tom Clayton, Jim Mulholland, Brad Hanson and Tom Raffeto.

Kneeling (left-right) Pete Andriacchi, Bob Camano, Tony Shupin, Rick Wilson and Tony Vodola.

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