

WINTER WORLD CHAMPIONS!

NSS PLAYERS AND MIDWEST TEAMMATES CLAIM TITLE

(AP) Phoenix, AZ

Several NSS players will be sporting new jewelry as the Midwest Express 70s, managed by **Ed Tworek**, shocked the desert southwest by blasting a path to the Winter Word Championship in Phoenix, Arizona.

The six-day tournament featured 185 teams from 22 states and championships were decided in 27 divisions.

In pool play, to determine seeding, Midwest Express was beaten soundly by California's Git-R-Done squad by a score of 28 to 17. Git-R-Done eventually would earn the #1 seed in the tournament.

Midwest Express rebounded to edge the Codgers of Idaho, 20-19, by pushing across 6 runs in the bottom of the 7th inning to cap the comeback. The win allowed the Express to grab the #4 seed in bracket play set to begin the next day.

On Wednesday, the boys in red and black then caught fire by posting a 24-7 win over Yavapai, Arizona and avenged their loss to Git-R-Done with a confidence building win over the top seed. The Express held the powerful team from California to only 5 runs and posted 13 of their own to send the west coast favorites to an early visit to the loser's bracket.

The second day of play finished with the Express pouring it on with a 23-16 victory over the PDC (Colorado) Yankees and a berth in the championship game for the final day of the tournament.

After a grueling morning of close games, the PDC Yankees returned to the championship match by eliminating the Git-R-Done team with a bottom of the 7th rally and returned to try and get revenge on the Express.

The Yankees attacked early by stinging 5 straight hits and scoring 3 runs to start the game. However, the Express defense stiffened and threw a runner out at the plate and turned a double play to keep the opening salvo at just 3.

The game was close throughout and was tied going into the 3rd, 4th, and 5th innings before the Express took the lead for good in the bottom of the 5th. The go ahead began when **Bob Kubat** blasted a monster shot off the left center field fence that missed going out by inches and the Express went up by two.

In the 6th inning, the Express scored 5 runs highlighted by **Tarry Cory**'s 3 run homer and took a comfortable lead going into the top of the 7th inning.

The Yankees first two batters went quietly leaving the Midwest squad one out away from the championship but, as softball goes, it's not over until the last out is made.

The Colorado team strung together 5 straight hits and scored 3 runs to make the anxiety level a bit higher for the players and fans. With runners on the corners, the final PDC batter lofted a sky-high shot to right field that was squeezed and handled easily by **Ed Rastovski** and the title was secured.

Skipper **Ed Tworek** said, *“what a gratifying victory after falling short in the finals of the tournament last year. The championship game was a solid effort with excellent defense and an offense that pushed across runs every inning. What more can a manager ask!”*

Tworek went on to highlight former deceased manager, **Joe Beninato** as a source of inspiration and *“watching over us from above.”*

All-tournament team selectees were **Ed Rastovski**, **Bob Kubat**, **Ron Peterson**, **JK Kelly**, and **Larry Stolte**.

Over six games, the Midwest Express batted .667 as a team and was led by **Ed Rastovski** (.818, 18/22), **JK Kelly** (.778, 14/18) and **Jim Butler** (.750). Adding Butler’s 7 walks, he reached base safely in 16 of 19 at bats.

The Express 70s is a Senior Softball USA sanctioned 70 AAA tournament team comprised of Nebraska/Iowa area players age 70-74. The team competes nationally about once per month and is not corporate sponsored and no monetary compensation is provided. Motivation to play is based on love of the game and team fellowship.

Representing our Nebraska Senior Softball league during the championship run were **Duane Carolus, Bob Kubat, Ed Rastovski, Rick Simodynes,** and **Ed Tworek.** **Larry Peterson** was unable to compete but is another NSS member of the team.

Team Roster:

Jim Butler	Wadsworth, IL
Duane Carolus	Bellevue, NE
Tarry Cory	Indianola, IA
Mike Coulter	Waterloo, IA
Paul Jackson	Urbandale, IA
John Kelly	Waterloo, IA
Bob Kubat	Omaha, NE
Ron Peterson	Waukee, IA
Ed Rastovski	Wahoo, NE
Rick Simodynes	Nevada, IA
Glenn Soyer	Norwalk, IA
Larry Stolte	Boone, IA
Ed Tworek	Omaha, NE

Players unable to make the trip to Arizona:

Sonny Burton	Des Moines, IA
Clyde Fry	Des Moines, IA
Leo Hensley	Winterset, IA
Lon Means	Johnston, IA
Larry Peterson	Bellevue, NE