

# Southern Oregon Flatliners Men's 50+ Senior Softball Club

Submitted by Julie Padilla

**T**he Southern Oregon Flatliners Men's 50+ Senior Softball team has done it again. After winning the Gold medal at the Huntsman World Senior Games in St. George, Utah last October, the team decided to try their luck at the SSUSA's "Rock n' Reno Challenge Cup" in Carson City, Nevada. Competing for the first time in the AAA ranks was quite a test of the players' skills. This tournament is listed as one of the top three senior tournaments in the country.

After qualifying as the 8th seed, the Flatliners played teams from Seattle, Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles to bring home the championship. Lead by All Tournament players, Barney Lewis (OF), Lyle Keeling (OF), Ron Staniforth (IF), Rocky Puderbaugh (P), and Stewart Frantz (OF), the team came out on top once again. With an incredible team on base percentage of .794, and hitting nineteen homeruns over the course of seven games, the Flatliners used their speed and athletic abilities to play an impeccable defense. The middle infield of Rick Vargas and Scott Nelson was close to flawless. The outfielders had to navigate the affects of constant 30 mph + winds during the games. Because of the winds, pitching was a huge struggle for most teams. Pitcher Rocky



Puderbaugh handled the wind nicely and played stellar defense up the middle.

The team consists of these players from throughout the Rogue Valley: (Picture attached) Top row: Ron Staniforth, Barney Lewis, Stewart Frantz, Rick Vargas, Craig Everhart, Mike Smith, Henry Padilla – Bottom row: Scott Nelson, Lyle Keeling, Mike Slavenski, Rocky Puderbaugh and Rich Farmer.

By winning the "Cup", the Flatliners have earned a berth to the "Tournament of Champions" next February in Florida. The Flatliners also well known for their integrity and sportsmanship are looking forward to their continued representation of Southern Oregon on the national level and are seeking additional sponsorship to help offset the cost to travel, compete, and return from Florida hopefully with the Senior Softball National Title. If you are interested in becoming "part of the team" by sponsorship please contact Michael Slavenski at 541 773 1383.

