

NORTH CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA - One of senior softball's finest early tournaments is in fact, April's Finest. This year was the 12th annual senior tournament hosted by the North Charleston Recreation Department under the able direction of Cindy Dambaugh. The games are played at both the Westvaco Park in North Charleston and the Gahagan Complex in nearby Summerville and are sanctioned by the Softball Players Association.

The event kicks off on Thursday night with a barbecue or fish fry prepared by the City to welcome the players and guests and prepare them for a great tournament. During their stay, the players also find time to enjoy some very fine Charleston area "low country" cuisine in some fabulous restaurants. At this event even the concession stand food is hard to beat.

On the field, teams can count on playing senior teams from a wide geographic area as the warm climate and a reputation for quality attracts teams from throughout the eastern United States. After the preliminary games the teams are generally divided into Gold and Silver divisions to compete for the handsome award packages provided by the host City. Division winners are presented with a set of jackets, uniform shirts and hats in addition to the championship plaque.

Cindy and her staff do a great job for the senior teams and this is one tournament they look forward to each year. All senior teams are invited to participate and if your team is over 50 or older, you should experience North Charleston in April, nothing could be finer than a trip to South Carolina. The following senior teams captured the division championships for 2008:

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55+ GOLD - Carolina All-Stars - Raleigh NC

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60+ GOLD - Brix and Stix - The Villages, FL

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60+ SILVER - VA Cavaliers - Fairfax, VA

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65+ GOLD - Thomas Engineering - Manassas, VA

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65+ SILVER - Kittrell Properties - Knoxville, TN

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70+ GOLD - Southern Pride - Pensacola, FL

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70+ SILVER - Mid GA Seniors - Columbus, GA