

SALEM, VIRGINIA - When the last out was rung up to conclude the 7th ISF Senior World Cup at Salem, Virginia and the surrounding jurisdictions, the senior participants had been treated to a level of tournament management and support unlike anything most had ever witnessed before. The attention to detail to provide the visiting players an exceptional tournament experience was awesome. To begin with, the softball complexes used for the event were as good a quality and met a higher standard than most playing fields in the United States. But the Roanoke Valley set itself apart from the others with the field preparation throughout the tournament. Each field was dragged, wetted and relined between the games. Most dugouts had water fountains and restrooms in the dugout itself, yet the staff provided coolers with ice water in each dugout and they were replenished after every game. And the electronic scoreboards were operated by well trained and experienced official scorekeepers at each field. And there were dozens of other behind the scenes staff making sure the tournament was managed in a professional manner. Here is what some managers had to say about the tournament:

* That was a great tournament. Thanks. Those were the best umpires that you have ever had. Best fields we have played on and a very well run tournament. - Dave Yinger, Spicer's 55

* We enjoyed the hospitality of Salem and the superb facilities. The tournament was very well run. Thanks again for giving us the opportunity to play in an excellent tournament. - Rainer Martens, FL Legends/Human Kinetics 65

* By far the best maintained and prepared complexes we have played on in 2008 (this is our sixth tournament.) Thank you. My infielders especially appreciated the wetting down and dragging of the fields before EACH game, nothing even came close to being a bad hop. Scoreboards and scorekeepers have become an endangered species in Senior Softball Tournaments. Thanks for providing them, they make a managers job much easier. Umpires - where? They were so good they were almost invisible, as they should be. - Ed Davis, GA Nuggets 65

* We would like to complement all who were responsible for both the preparation and management of the tournament. The effort put forth by the tournament staff, umpire crew, and local personnel to keep us informed and provide meaningful info before, during, and after the tournament is to be commended. There are not many tournaments that provide the in depth info that your organization provides. The player pass photos etc. were a nice touch. We think the format and the system used to determine the brackets was great also, We think the concept to provide an opportunity for each different age group to have a realistic chance to win a championship regardless of where you are rated is a good one. - Jim Butler, The Virginians 70

When the site for the 2008 Senior ISF World Cup was announced last winter, a number of players and managers asked "why the move to Salem?" "Now all the participants in this year's competition understand," offered RB Thomas, Jr., Tournament Director. "The City of Salem has earned the reputation to be called the CITY OF CHAMPIONS. The Roanoke Valley is a sports-minded community which takes great pride in hosting National and now World sports

events. We could not be more pleased with the excellent tournament support that was provided to go along with their first-class facilities.”