

DUGOUT CHATTER

On the Internet: www.gsscs.org ... **GSSC Hotline for Meeting Info: 491-1721**

New GSSC Board is Sworn in; Seward Receives Award of Merit

Led by President Ray Mendonsa, the new board of directors for 2008-09 was sworn in at the Sept. 20 general meeting, held in conjunction with the annual picnic and championship playoff games at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

The club also honored Dick Seward with the 2008 Award of Merit, the 40th recipient of the honor, formerly known as Man of the Year, in the 30-year GSSC history.

Mendonsa, elected at the August meeting, succeeds Dan Norton, who did not seek another term in the office. Also sworn in were re-elected board members Pete Ward (second vice president in charge of uniforms), Glen Cole (treasurer), Mickey Schleicher (secretary), and Tom Sansone (player agent). Dave Vargo, formerly first vice president, takes over as club commissioner. Freddie Miller did not seek re-election to that post. Fred Fischer is the newly elected first vice president, in charge of sponsorships. Members applaud Norton and Miller for their hard work and dedication.

In brief remarks, Mendonsa reiterated that the club belongs to the members and urged their attendance and participation at meetings as rules for the next season are discussed and decided. He said he wants to see greater uniformity in rules among the (See Page 3)

MOST LEAGUE TITLE GAMES ARE ONE-RUN CLIFF-HANGERS

With four of six games decided by one run, the Picnic Day league championship games were an exciting and entertaining blend of good pitching, mostly tight defense and timely hitting.

In the **League 5** title game, California Energy edged Overhead Door 4-3. A 4-6-3 double-play in the fifth inning ending a bases-loaded Overhead Door threat after the winners broke a 1-1 tie with three runs, mainly due to errors in a game that otherwise featured outstanding defensive play. The losers were led by Ettore Minor, who homered over the right-fielder's head in the sixth. He also made a great catch to rob California Energy's Allen Riker of a hit.

League 2: Fourth-seeded Harper Properties, managed by Jim Wait, used Jim Lucas' game-winning hit for a come-from-behind 16-15 victory over second-seeded Sports Leisure Vacations. Rich Edwards homered for the

winners. Behind Peter Anagnoston's pitching, Harper Properties shut out Sports Leisure in the final two innings.

League 4: Fourth-seed C&C Plumbing, managed by Jack Kocunik, edged Russ Barnes' defending champion Bradshaw Ranch Golf, 15-14. Four two-out hits -- by Bob Smartt, Dave Tanner, Ed Frantz and Bruce Gilmore -- keyed a five-run sixth-inning rally for the winners. C&C's Rich Ganas' towering drive reached the trees beyond the left-field fence. It was the lone over-the-fence blast of the six Picnic Day league championship playoff finals. C&C, league leader with 16 double plays in the regular season, added three more in the playoffs.

League 3: The top-seeded Old Hornets squeaked by Maita Chevrolet, 7-6. Non-playing Manager Rich Del Chiaro's Maita squad, which had been (See Page 3)

Two Reach .800 Plateau

Only two Golden Seniors wound up the regular season breaking the .800 batting average barrier: Bill Christian (.847) and Monte Miller (.821). They both played in League 4, where Emilio Lobato finished at .797. In League 2, Dave Vargo (.797) and Larry Davis (.790) flirted with the rare .800 mark. (Vargo noted that he would have been there if playoff games were included.)

On the long-ball front, Miller was the overall regular season GSSC homer champ with 12, leading L5 with six and tying for the L4 lead with six. Monta Litle and Rich Ganas had 11 each, including six each in L4 and five each in L5. In L4, where over-the-fence homers were tracked, Litle had 5, Ganas 4 and Miller 3.

League 2 Leaders

Batting -- Dave Vargo .796, Larry Davis .790, Bill Enos .768. Hits -- Vic Torres 56, Bob Flink 53, Tony DiBernardo 52. Doubles -- Flink 15, Conn Lockett and Ken Styc 12. Triples -- Rich Edwards 7, Russ Barnes and LeRoy Gallardo 5. HR -- Davis, Flink and Lockett 3. RBI -- Flink 36, Davis, Edwards and Gus Niklas 34.

League 3 Leaders

Batting -- Norm Blackwell .758, Hap Duffney .750, Jack Kocunik .705. Hits -- Blackwell 47, Dave Vargo and Kocunik 43. Doubles -- A.J. Petruzzi 16, Al Raydon 13, two with 12.

Triples -- Steve Schuler and Bruce Gilmore 8, Walker and Steve Casarez 6. HR -- John Dearing 4, six with 2. RBI -- Walker 44, Blackwell 42, Gilmore 37.

League 4 Leaders

Batting -- Bill Christian .847, Monte Miller .821, Emilio Lobato .797. Hits -- Christian 61, Lobato 59, Ed Frantz 57. Doubles -- Lobato 25, Miller 23, Monta Litle 21. Triples -- Bruce Gilmore 8, Marcus Kirkland 7, John Mohamed 6. HR (inside & out-of-park) -- Miller, Rich Ganas and Litle 6. (Over Fence: Litle 5, Ganas 4, Miller 3.) (Inside Park: Lobato 5, Tim Brown and Hal Johnson 4.) RBI -- Miller 58, Lobato 49, Litle 42.

League 5 Leaders

Batting -- Bob Del Chiaro .759, Ettore Minor .755, Monta Litle .741. Hits -- Frantz 49, David Gonzales and Monte Miller 45. Doubles -- Litle 13, Minor 12, Dean Ross 11. Triples -- Demontre Davis and Jerry Baugh 6, Russ Carlson 5. HR -- Miller 6, Litle and Ganas 5. RBI -- Miller 40, Minor and Ganas 37.

League 6 Leaders

Batting -- Rich Edwards .712, Bill Enos and Doug Peterson .667. Hits -- Dave Vargo 49, Peterson 48, Edwards 47. Doubles -- Edwards 12, Enos 11, Peterson 9. Triples -- Edwards 4, 3 with 3. HR -- Edwards 3, Vargo 2, two with 1. RBI -- Vargo 45, Peterson 44, 3 with 30.

#

Sunshine & Health Report

REST IN PEACE: During the Sept. 20 general meeting, Trudy Smartt, Sunshine and Health co-chair, led a period of silence in memory of 13 long-time GSSC members and spouses of two members who passed away in the past 12 months: Vic Bianchini, Vic Brownell, Bob Cooper, Bud Freeny, Wilfred Johnson, Harry Knight, Alva Patterson, Bob Pugmire, Fred Rainey, Norman Siefkin, Babe Thomas, Frank Thommen and Vito Virga. Also, Barbara Hegelein, wife of Al, and Carmen Luna, wife of Ramiro. The recent passing of Mr. Thomas, a non-playing life member who would have been 89 on Sept. 22, was announced at the meeting. #

Another Great Picnic. Picnic Committee Chair Bennie Benson and his committee (Dante Ciardella, Henry Fontes and Arnold Wilkerson) put on a terrific picnic. Volunteers: Don Lawson, Daryl Cook, Jack Jacinto, Joe Sugimoto, Jim Lamm, Victor Scott, Paul Thompson, George Crawl, Domenic LaFazia, John McMillan, Jim Stokes, Bob South, Murv Granderson, Don Pooler, Bob Nielson, Foster Maxwell and Howard Shaw. (Dante asked forgiveness should he leave anyone out.) #

GSSC PICNIC-PLAYOFFS & GENERAL MEETING (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

leagues. The next general meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m. The site: VFW Post 67 Hall on Stockton Boulevard.

Award of Merit. Recognized for service to the club since joining in 1985, Seward, 74, has served as a manager, second vice president and umpire. He taught children with special needs for 43 years at Rio Linda High School. For 19 years he managed tournament teams, including some of the most competitive outfits in Northern California, according to Ken Wollenberg, who emceed the award ceremony.

Higher Membership Fees. Anticipating increased costs, the Board of Directors authorized a \$95 fee for 2009 season membership, an increase of \$20. This includes the \$70 cost for playing in one league. Each additional league will cost \$70. A playing Life Member will pay dues of \$60. A non-playing

Life Member will pay no dues in 2009, but must submit a renewal application. Any regular non-playing member will still pay \$25 for club membership. In a letter accompanying the renewal form, Player Agent Sansone said the board acted to "cover increased costs and to preserve the club's savings." Forms for new members and renewals will be on-line (www.gsscs.org). Renewal forms will be mailed to members.

New 70+ Select League. A new League 7 will begin play next season if enough players sign up. Games are planned for 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Complex, with a minimum age of 70 to be eligible to be placed on teams.

Think Safety. Safety Committee Chair Jerry Jodice will report on training developments in our Nov-Dec issue of Dugout Chatter.

Web Site. The GSSC site, www.gsscs.org,

LEAGUE TITLE GAMES ARE CLIFF-HANGERS (FROM PAGE 1)

the only team to beat the Old Hornets all season, including an earlier playoff game, used two triples by Patrick Morrison and a clutch RBI by Gilmore to draw even with the Old Hornets going into the bottom of the sixth. Old Hornet Brent Korff led off with a single. Hits by Bill Greene and Steve Schuler resulted in Korff scoring the game-winner.

League 1: Mimi's Cafe defeated Merrill Bookkeeping 5-2. Manager John Chatfield's winners were led by Ken Cramer's two hits, including a double. John Ross had three hits for Merrill, managed by Jerry Jodice.

League 6: Noel Maldonado's Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA) defeated River City Bank, 22-13. The winners pulled away in the final two innings. Jim Stinson, who had a two-run triple for the winners, also made an unassisted double-play at first base. He snared a liner and, in almost the same motion, tagged a surprised baserunner just a step or two off the base. Dave Taylor had four hits for the losers. Doug Peterson had two triples and a double and Dave Vargo had two doubles and a triple for the winners.

Odds and Ends. Double congratulations to Kocunik, L4

manager and L3 player, and Gilmore, who won as a L3 and L5 player. Gilmore nearly played on three winning picnic day teams, but his L3 team, Maita Chevrolet, came up a little short. #

(Many thanks to scorekeepers Colette Barnes and Sandy Begg for many details throughout the season.)

PHOTOS: CHECK OUT THE WWW.GSSCS.ORG WEB SITE FOR PICTURES FROM THE PICNIC/PLAYOFFS. PHOTOGRAPHERS LOU COPOLLA, PAUL LUCKY AND JOHN THOMAS PLAN TO HAVE THEM ONLINE BY EARLY OCTOBER, SAYS LOU.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2008-2009

President Ray Mendonsa ... 686-3894

First Vice President Fred Fischer ... 685-5044 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President Pete Ward ... 989-4722 (Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer Glen Cole ... 966-4561

Secretary Mickey Schleicher ... 239-9230

Player Agent Tom Sansone ... 686-1654 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner David Vargo ... 689-7061 (Responsible for league rules, oversees all league commissioners.)

***NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING:
THURSDAY, OCT. 2, AT 7:30 P.M. SITE: VFW
HALL, 2764 STOCKTON BLVD.***

TELEPHONE HOTLINES

Club Answering Machine

(managed by Don Shank): 491-1721 for meeting news and field conditions.

Phone or Address Changes:

391-3938

Player Applications: 686-1654

Sunshine & Health: 973-8269

GSSC #3912 **Blood Bank:** 456-1500

Safety Chair (Jerry Jodice) 349-8949

Entertainment Chair Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter (Ron Roach,
editor) 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)

Information Technology: Ron
Roach 422-2500

Golden Seniors Softball Club
Ray Mendonsa, President
2324 Migration Court
Elk Grove, CA 95757

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1393
SACRAMENTO, CA