

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) -- SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2011

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2012, CLUB COMMUNICATION IS A TOP PRIORITY

From GSSCS President Tom Sansone

We have just completed another very successful year with the Golden Seniors and we are already looking ahead to 2012. The new Board was sworn in at the picnic which by all accounts was a great success.

The first thing we all need to do is thank the picnic committee for doing such a wonderful job with the new venue and caterer. The next time you see those guys, make sure you give them a big pat on the back. They don't get enough credit for the work they do.

2012 will be upon us before we know it and I hope you are all planning to return for the new season. **The renewal applications have been mailed so return them as soon as possible; this will make the Player Agent's job a lot easier.** The Board has a lot to do in the off season to complete the business aspects of the Club. The Rules Committee and the Planning Committee will be back at it and trying to keep up with the changing needs of the Club. I think we can expect another big year for the Golden Seniors.

An organization as large as ours...500 strong...depends so much on clear communication. Last year, GSSCS President, Bill Hill, talked about the importance of communication; I agree with his perspective. Staying in touch with the membership is difficult but it is also essential. I am working with our web site guru to arrange a way to email all members with important news and happenings in the club. Those with computers will be ahead of the game with this efficient way to receive the current information on field conditions, league standings, meeting announcements, practice games and newsletter access, etc. Email capability will move the Club into the new millennium and once we are up and running, we will discover many new ways to use this method of communication with Club members. My plan is to have this new system operational by the time the 2012 season begins. Please stay tuned!

I look forward to working with the Board to move the Club forward and to find new solutions to old problems. I hope to see you on the field. #

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

JANUARY 2012

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L-1 CHAMPIONSHIP: NIELSEN EDGES DUMONT WITH FINAL-INNING RALLY

From George Hodsdon, L-1 commissioner

In a real nail-biter, Manager Norm Blackwell's Nielsen Real Estate scored a come-from-behind 15-14 victory over Dumont Pest Control in the L-1 championship game at the picnic on Sept. 24. George Langan's Dumont squad took a three-run lead into the bottom of the seventh, as the lead changed hands about four times.

Nielsen came back with two runs and had two on and two out when Aaron LaDay was intentionally walked to load the bases. Nick Abrams lined a single over the third baseman's head to win the game and wrap up the Monday Morning Championship.

To get to the final game, Nielsen, the winner of the league's second round, beat third-round winner American Medical Equipment, managed by John Chatfield, 13-6 on Sept. 19.

Dumont, the first-round winner, played Bob Benham's Merrill Bookkeeping, winner of the most games in the season without winning a round. Dumont held a 6-2 lead going into the bottom of the seventh inning, when Merrill had three straight singles. Ed Caluza cleared the bases with a hit that rolled to the fence. Caluza was thrown out at the plate, failing by one step of achieving a grand slam, and Dumont advanced to the picnic.

Commissioner's notes: Monday Morning had a really good season (aside from the rainouts). Once the season started we never had one rule change and only one protest. The weather was great, always below 100 before the games ended. Four of the nine teams made the playoffs with three tied at 6-2 for the third round. Of the three playoff and championship games, two were won by one run.

Depending on signups for 2012, Monday Morning has nine managers and eight or nine sponsors ready to go at Howe Avenue. #

SANSONE AND LOW ARE HONORED WITH AWARD OF MERIT FOR 2011

Tom Sansone, who has served the club as player agent and team manager, and is the new club president, and Henry Low, former club secretary who has continued to keep the club's records by maintaining the membership data base on his computer, were honored with the 2011 Award of Merit.

The committee of former winners of the award, which for many years was known as the club's "Man of the Year," selected this year's winner that were announced at the club picnic on Sept. 24. The Award of Merit is awarded annually to a member who volunteers time and effort for the betterment of the club.

Bob Havrilla introduced the winners at the picnic. (Low, a University of Washington grad, was absent, as he usually attends a Huskies football game on Saturdays this time of year.

Sansone, 63, joined the club in 2002. Low, who turned 73 on Sept. 24, has been a member since 1994. #

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME WINNERS: NorCal Jackets, RE/MAX, Harper Properties, Executive Limo, Better Softball Equipment

Three of the five Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday leagues' championship games were decided by two runs or less in an exciting day of Golden Seniors playoffs Sept. 24 at Howe Park.

The L-5 (Thursday night) championship game featured the top seed, Mark Cordell's NorCal Jackets, against Darryl Watson's Cal Energy, with NorCal prevailing 13-12. Pete Ward's two-out bloop hit drove in the winning run, capping a six-run bottom-of-the-seventh rally for NorCal, after Cal Energy had rallied for seven runs in the top half of the inning to go up by five.

In L-3 (Tuesday night), top-seeded RE/MAX, managed by Dave Tanner, edged Bob Jones's Fuddruckers, 14-13, on the strength of a bottom-of-the-seventh, four-run rally capped by Myron Dahl's game-winning hit to center field. The Fuddruckers had taken a three-run lead in their half of the seventh.

L-2 (Tuesday morning) -- Harper Properties 14, RAMBIT Inc. 12. Harper Properties, with Myron Dahl filling in as acting manager for Jim Wait's second-seeded team, edged the John Colletto-managed, top-seeded RAMBIT squad, including sponsor Ray A. Merrill. Dahl reported that subs Merv Mill and Bill Enos were big additions to the team, and Bob Dillon provided key hits. Dahl, who played in three championship games, winning two, said he was totally exhausted and upon getting home he took his temperature: 101 degrees. Mill, Dillon and John Fields also were among those who played on two leagues' championship teams, according to Dahl.

L-4 (Wednesday night) -- Executive Limousine 21, 9th & X Self Storage 15. Manager Jim Stokes's Executive Limo capitalized on fielding lapses and in the top of the seventh broke the game open with eight runs. Bud DeSouza's 9th & X team couldn't manage a baserunner in the bottom of the seventh. DeSouza and Walt Strickland were 4 for 4 in the game, including a homer from Strickland. John Fields and Darrell Heim had four hits each for the winners. "My first championship, ever!" Stokes said. He has been in the club 14 years, seven as a player-manager.

L-6 (Tuesday morning) -- Better Softball Equipment 16, Mark E. White DDS 11. Managers Howard Toder, 4x4, and Bill Greene, 3x3, paced the winners. Arnold Bray had five singles for Greg Leurgan's Mark E. White team that rallied for 10 of their runs in the last two innings. #

SAFETY REPORT: TRAINING WILL BE OFFERED IN FEBRUARY; NEW SAFETY COORDINATOR NEEDED

The club is scheduling a safety training session for February, as previously announced by Curtis Holcomb, who is helping to recruit a successor as club safety coordinator. Curtis was elected Club Commissioner in August.

A number of previously certified CPR/AED providers need to take refresher courses to retain Red Cross certification, and the club needs additional volunteers for the "red hat" group. The training is financed by the club. Stay tuned for more details. #

CAMPBELL SEEKS L-7 PLAYERS

Larry Campbell, commissioner of the club's League 7, is the contact for players 67 and older interested in playing in a four-team league planned for 10:30 on Tuesday mornings at the Complex. Campbell can be reached at 485-4843.

L-7, initially formed in 2009, also played in 2010, but was suspended for 2011 when there were not enough signups for a four-team league. Campbell said he is hopeful that there are a number of players 67, 68 and 69 who feel that L-6 (also at 10:30 on Tuesdays for players 60 and older) is too fast and would rather play in a league with older players. Campbell said that those who sign up for L-7 could revert to L-6 or another league, or get refunds, if there are insufficient L-7 signups. He said that inviting players 68 and 69 would be intended to make up for players 70 and above who choose to play in L-6. (Note: The club board on Oct. 17 decided to set a Jan. 9 deadline for L-7 signups to make a determination on the viability of the league for 2012.)

Campbell also has organized a league for players 75 and older. He said this league has played successfully at Carmichael Park on Thursday mornings. It is not affiliated with the Golden Seniors Softball Club but he said he is grateful that the club has made surplus GSSCS jerseys available for these teams.

Campbell also said women 45 and older are welcome to play in the Thursday Carmichael Park league. It is only fitting, he said, that women be invited to participate because when the Golden Seniors got under way in the 1970s, they played women's teams. #

LET'S SEE, HIT OR ERROR?

Scorekeeper
Sandy Begg
keeps track of
the hits, runs
and outs, etc.
(Lou Coppola
photo)



MESSAGE FROM SANDY BEGG. *To the great Golden Seniors: Many of you know that July was not the best month I've ever had. I ended up in the hospital with pneumonia and an extremely leaky mitral valve in my heart. Dozens of you signed a wonderful card. Your concern helped speed my recovery. Your welcome when I returned to scorekeeping was almost overwhelming. I'm so grateful to all of you amazing people. You are a blessing in my life every day. #*



GREAT GRUB! Sporting their championship shirts, Dave Raydon (center) and Reggie Rogers, joined by Dave's wife Mona Liza, display their picnic plates. Raydon played for Dave Tanner's RE/MAX team that won the L-3 championship. Rogers played for Jim Stokes' Executive Limo team that triumphed in L-4. (Lou Coppola photo)



L-1 CHAMPS. Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr., won the Monday Morning L-1 championship. (Lou Coppola photo)



TUESDAY NITE CHAMPS. RE/MAX, managed by Dave Tanner, edged Fuddruckers in the L-3 title game. There is a soon-to-be life member in this photo. Congrats to Wayne Vickery, back row, 3rd from left. (Lou Coppola photo)



EYE ON BALL:
Long-time Golden Senior Bob Rogers puts ball in play during one of the six league championship games played on Picnic & Playoffs Saturday Sept. 24. (Lou Coppola photo)

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT:

Ruth Rill, wife of Life Member Ed Rill, passed away in September.

#

GSSCS BOARD APPROVES TEN FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Meeting Oct. 17, the board approved 10 Golden Seniors for life membership status. They are to be inducted at the general meeting in January -- tentatively scheduled for Jan. 9.

The 10, who will be between the ages of 75 and 81 during 2012, are: Lewis Abrams, Leo Curry Jr., Casper Greif, Robert Havrilla, Jerry Kanenaga, Ramiro Luna, Bob Nevis, August Niklas, Vic Spahn and Wayne Vickery.

Other club news from the board meeting:

RULES COMMITTEE: Club Commissioner Curtis Holcomb advised the board that he has three volunteers so far to serve on the Rules Committee: Jerry Nevis, Dave Tanner and Jerry Toenyes. Nevis plays Tuesday mornings and Tanner and Toenyes play Tuesday nights, with Tanner managing RE/MAX and Toenyes serving as L-3 commissioner. The board expressed particular interest in a review of existing playing rules to make them as clear and unambiguous as possible.

GENERAL MEETINGS SCHEDULE: Tentatively, pending confirmation of the availability of the meeting place (VFW Post 67 Hall), the board intends to schedule general meetings for 7:30 p.m. on the second Mondays of January, February, March, May, July and August. A meeting in September will be scheduled to install the new board that is elected at the August meeting. Club by-laws require at least six general membership meetings during the year.

NEW MONDAY LEAGUE COMMISSIONER: Henry Low will be the commissioner of L-1 in 2012. He said George Hodsdon will continue as the Monday League commissioner through the draft of teams for the next season, then will serve as Low's assistant.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: As of Oct. 8, the club roster listed 470 members, including 62 who had joined the club since September 2010. There were 134 life members, 71 of whom play and 63 in non-playing status. There were 104 multi-league members filling 238 slots on teams. Henry Low, who maintains the club's data base, noted that 57 members in 2010 did not renew for 2011. #

CLUB "HOTLINE" SOURCE FOR NEWS, INFORMATION

Operated by Don Shank, the club's hotline provides recorded information for members, such as the general meeting schedule. It also is where players can call to make sure their games are going to be played as scheduled due to threatening weather or other events that make the fields unplayable, such as water main breaks or thefts of copper wire that prevents use of lights for night games. These things have happened, so even if the weather looks balmy, and you can't be reached by your manager, you might be advised to give the "hot line" a jingle at 491-1721. #

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(* = New Sponsor)

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VFW POST 67

RICHARD WILL ATTORNEY

WION'S BODY SHOP

*9TH & X SELF STORAGE

#

SHORT HOPS & BIG BOUNCES

Bill “Knobby” Knoblauch has decided to stop playing softball, a “very difficult decision” for the veteran L-3 sponsor-manager-pitcher. Knobby, who has been slowed by ailing feet, broke the news in a September e-mail to numerous past and present Old Hornets players. “It has been a good ride,” he said, and “I will miss our comraderie.” He said he hopes someone else can step up and take over sponsorship of the Old Hornets. “We had a fun team (this year), everyone got along with everyone, and that is important. All of the Old Hornet teams in the past have also kept the Old Hornet mantra -- HAVE FUN.” Knobby joined the club in 2004. Golfers are likely to see him at Lincoln Hills where he has been in charge of beverage carts. Knobby also helped the Golden Seniors by playing a major role in arranging GSSCS golf tournaments at Lincoln Hills.

Congratulations to **Albert Morales**, a member of the Class of 2011 of the Northern California Senior Softball Hall of Fame. Albert joined the Golden Seniors in 1984, the same year he began managing the Sacramento Rebels tournament team. The 1989 inductee of the Mexican Hall of Fame also is a founding member of the Tournament Players Association. Also in the Class of 2011, as reported after he passed away in June, is Bob Schwan, another veteran of the Golden Seniors and longtime leader of the TPA. (For more on Schwan, see the Dugout Chatter of July 2011, and for more on the Class of 2011, go to www.ncssa.org).

The next **Tournament Players Association** (TPA) Dinner-Dance is scheduled for Feb. 4, 2012 at the VFW Post 67 hall on Stockton Boulevard, according to new TPA President Bob Lowery.

Lowery said he wants to stress that all Golden Seniors club members, regardless of whether they are TPA players, are welcome to join in the dinner and dance. Many TPA members also belong to the Golden Seniors.

More details to come. Lowery can be reached at 275-0953. #

NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: Nov-Dec 2011. READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE AT WWW.GSSCS.ORG WHERE NEWS UPDATES AND PHOTOS ARE PUBLISHED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, YOU CAN REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE DUGOUT CHATTER MAILING LIST AND READ THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE, SAVING THE CLUB POSTAGE, PAPER AND INK. TO GET OFF THE SNAIL-MAIL LIST, CALL HENRY LOW AT 391-3938. MARCH-THRU-AUGUST ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE GENERALLY AVAILABLE ONLINE WITH SOME PRINTED COPIES AVAILABLE AT FIELDS (SEE SCOREKEEPERS). THE ONLINE EDITION IS USUALLY ACCESSIBLE DAYS OR EVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE PRINTED EDITION ARRIVES VIA SNAIL MAIL. THE ONLINE EDITION ALSO MAY CONTAIN MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS. ADVERTISING: CLUB SPONSORS MAY RUN ADS IN THE DUGOUT CHATTER (\$50 FOR QUARTER-PAGE OR LESS, \$75 FOR A HALF-PAGE. NON-SPONSOR RATES ARE HIGHER.) CONTACT LOU COPPOLA, 444-6138. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2011-12

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654

First Vice President **Dick Latimer**

363-9555 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ...

989-4722 (Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308

Secretary **Matt Tedrow** ... 515-0451

Player Agent **Linda McCollum-**

Greene ... 391-5559 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Curtis**

Holcomb ...600-6065 (Responsible for enforcement of playing rules, oversees league commissioners.)

TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Club Answering Machine

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

Phone or Address Changes:

Henry Low 391-3938

Player Applications: Linda

McCollum-Greene 391-5559

Sunshine & Health: Trudy

Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:

456-1500

Safety: Coordinator

appointment pending

Entertainment: Lou Coppola

444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach,

editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)

Planning: Merritt Davis,

393-7160