

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) -- MARCH 2012

2012 SEASON ABOUT TO GET UNDER WAY

The 2012 Golden Seniors softball season openers were rapidly approaching as the club held its March 12 general meeting, with all leagues completing their drafts except Thursday night. The club's Board of Directors agreed to allow L-5 on Thursday nights to draft six teams of 11 players, instead of 12, to begin the season.

As of the meeting, L-5 was three players short of the 66 for such a draft, but league representatives expressed confidence that they would recruit at least three more players before the season begins.

League 1, for players 70 and older, already has had practices and was scheduled to begin league games on Monday, March 19, at Howe Avenue Park. With nine teams of 14 players each, L-1 was set to begin the season earlier than the other leagues to account for byes in the schedule.

If L-5 continues to have difficulty attracting enough players, Club President Tom Sansone said the Board of Directors will seriously consider eliminating the league in 2013. This league is for players 50 and older and normally attracts a large number of accomplished tournament players. This league also is the most expensive as the Complex increases fees for leagues playing Thursday or Friday nights.

L-2 and L-6, for players 60 and older playing at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., respectively, on Tuesdays at the Complex, were ready to go. L-2 has six 13-player teams. L-6 has six 12-player teams. Coed L-3, for players 50 and older, was all set with five teams of 12 and one of 13. L-4 on Wednesday nights had six teams of 11 players each.

Player Agent Linda McCollum-Greene said there were very few players on waiting lists or injured reserve to begin the season -- only one player on a waiting list as of March 12. Obviously, there is a continuing need to recruit more replacement players for all leagues during the course of the season.

The regular season of 20 games, plus playoffs, is scheduled to begin for five of the six leagues during the first week of April. One practice game is scheduled to be held the last week of March. (See Page 2)

**NEXT
GENERAL
MEETING:
7:30 p.m.,
Monday,
May 14, 2012
VFW Hall, 2784
Stockton Blvd.
(No Meeting in
April)**

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Club News: March 12 Meeting

Sunshine & Health Report

Safety: Club Needs New Safety Coordinator

List of Sponsors Paid Up for 2012

Short Hops & Long Bounces

Club Contacts: How to Reach the Board of Directors and Other Important Contacts

Other news: Club 2nd VP Pete Ward volunteered to research and report to the board the club's processes for drafting players and priority status of returning players. Of particular concern is the efficacy of allowing L-3 to continue its trial by which managers are allowed to select their players without a regular draft, as long as all managers agree to player assignments. This format was designed to produce better competitive balance.

The board also is looking at ways to encourage players, particularly those returning, to send in their applications and fees early enough to allow the club to conduct drafts and negotiate game schedules with the Complex.

Picnic Date: The board has yet to pin down a date for the annual picnic at the end of the season, mainly because of the numerous conflicts with weekend tournaments in September and early October. The club had reserved Sept. 29 at Howe Avenue Park for the picnic but, noticing a conflict with a major tournament in Las Vegas, decided that the GSSCS picnic date "is still to be determined."

Rule Books: The club has printed rule books for 2012 that include changes in rules previously adopted (see February Dugout Chatter). Senior Softball USA rule books govern play not covered by specific GSSCS rules, and the board has purchased (\$8 each) SSUSA rule books for team managers and club officers. Sansone said the board has agreed to revisit some -- not all -- of its decisions that rejected recommendations from the Rules Committee, such as the so-called "out zone" between third base and home plate. The committee wants the club to disallow a run for an infraction instead of calling an out and scratching the run. The zone would run from the commit line to a second home plate eight feet wide of home plate. (L-1 is exempt from the "out zone" rule.)

Bats: ASA isn't going to publish a list of bats legal for senior play. There will not be an approved list or a prohibited list for seniors, according to Chief Umpire Tom Bussey. Seniors will be exempt from the ASA lists as long as the bat is 1.20 BPF or 1.21 BPF. The ASA-approved stamp "means nothing" to seniors. Bussey said the only bats that are banned (for any level) are the gray original Miken Ultra I, the Combat Virus (purple and yellow) and any titanium model. (L-1 has decided not to allow the hotter bats, such as the Miken Ultra II.)

#

DUGOUT CHATTER ON LINE AND AT FIELDS

With this March issue, the Dugout Chatter is available for players to pick up at the fields where they play. Check the scorekeeper's desk for a copy. Better yet, read the Dugout Chatter online at www.gsscs.org. From March through August, the Chatter is mailed to a restricted list of sponsors, non-playing life members, and players on injured reserve. To hold down our newsletter costs, particularly postage, the newsletter is mailed to the membership during the months when there are no games, which is normally October through February. Members may inform Assistant Secretary Henry Low (391-3938) to request that they be taken off the mailing list year-round. #

SAFETY REPORT: COORDINATOR STILL NEEDED

At the March 12 general meeting, Club President Tom Sansone repeated the call for a volunteer to step forward and serve as the club's safety coordinator. Curtis Holcomb, who has been the safety leader, has been elected to the club commissioner post.

Holcomb said the main coordinator duty has been accomplished for this year: Arranging the February training of seven members in CPR and AED (defibrillator), giving seven GSSCS players or umpires two-year certification from the Red Cross.

Safety coordinator duties include appointments of a safety coordinator for each league. No game can commence without the club's "crash cart," including the AED device, being placed near the field. The home team manager for the first game of the day or night is responsible for rolling out the cart from the field office, and the home team manager of the final game is to put it away. The defibrillator must register OK for its electrical charge or the games cannot begin.

More than one Golden Senior, past and present, owes his life to quick and effective action by a fellow Golden Senior player or umpire who has received training paid for by the club.

The seven who completed training in February, and will be recognizable at the fields with their red hats, are Dave Tanner, Tom Bussey, John Hains, Cloicec Wade, Paul Rogers, Greg Leurgans and Dick Latimer.

SAFETY NOTES: Watch for "crooked tongue." There is a new sign that someone is having a stroke. Ask the person to stick out his or her tongue. If the tongue is "crooked," going to one side or the other, it is an indication of a stroke or blood clot. Three other ways of stroke recognition start with the first three letters of stroke: (S) ask the person to SMILE. (T) Ask the person to TALK and speak a simple sentence coherently, such as "It is sunny outside today." (R) Ask the person to RAISE BOTH ARMS. If the person has difficulty with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately.

STRETCH AND WARM UP BEFORE PRACTICE OR GAMES. All players should arrive early enough to stretch and warm up with a few simple exercises. This is particularly true for new players who haven't been practicing during the winter months. Chances are each newbie will be straining or pulling a muscle in the early going. Observe or ask veteran players or your managers how they avoid pulling hamstrings and quadriceps. One good investment for cold days and nights: kayak shorts. Neoprene shorts are ideal for quickly heating muscles while driving to the ballpark. And don't forget to drink water, even when it is cold and wet. #

"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. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

Joe Fraccola, 88, of Gold River passed away in early March. He joined the Golden Seniors in 1983 and played on the first travel team in 1984, according to Daryl Cook. Joe played in the club until the late 1980s or early 1990s, Cook recalled.

Martha Patterson, widow of Life Member Alva Patterson, passed away on March 5. Alva passed away in 2008.

Mary Ann Fulmer, wife of Life Member Ken Fulmer, passed away in late February. Mary Ann attended most of Ken's games and always kept track of his batting average.

Al Tirapelli is recuperating from five-way bypass heart surgery, occurring as he recovers from knee replacements. "I'm improving all the time but I'm really tired," Al told the Dugout Chatter on March 15, nearly a week after he was released from the hospital. Tirapelli, 77, had successful knee transplant surgery last September and then on Jan. 20 received a transplant for his other knee. As he was leaving the hospital after the second knee surgery, he said he wanted to talk but couldn't say the words, as he was experiencing a "mini-stroke." Doctors performed a number of tests, found the plugged arteries and operated. The GSSCS life member said he originally hoped to be playing again in June or July, but "now I'll have to take the whole year off." Being at the hospital when he showed the sign of a stroke may have saved his life, as the doctor told him the heart condition was such that "you could have dropped anytime."

Bob Reinwald has been sidelined by three-way bypass heart surgery. The L-4 and L-5 player-manager-sponsor will continue to manage his team in L-5 and hopes to resume playing during the season.

Keith Arnold, L-3 shortstop, reported as out for the year in the February Dugout Chatter, informed Dave Vargo on Feb. 20 that he was rehabbing at a rapid pace and expects to be 75% by April 1, with the only hindrances the ability to pull down the RF line and to fully extend his left arm for grounders at SS. "Keith must be made of grit and gristle to overcome the shoulder separation and tendon injury," said Vargo. He dislocated his non-throwing shoulder and tore two tendons when, according to a witness, he dove for a grounder during a winter practice.

#

SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

RIVER CATS TICKETS FOR 2012. Entertainment Chairman Lou Coppola reports that his RiverCats tickets for Saturdays and Sundays are available for anyone who wants to buy them (saving \$4 per ticket) during the course of the season. He said they are "very exchangeable" for any date or game of the year in the same Section 109, Rows 15-30. Call Lou (444-6138) for details.

CRAIG'S LIST. Member Doug Austin drew kudos from President Sansone for taking the initiative to help the club find more players. He was given permission by Sansone to put a classified notice on Craig's List welcoming players 50 and over to join the Golden Seniors. Austin also suggested that the club consider convincing the news media to do stories on the club. (Memo to Board: Why not consider appointing an interested member to do public relations for the club? *Pro bono*, of course.) #

SPONSORS SIGNED UP AND PAID FOR 2012

First VP Dick Latimer lists these club sponsors as paid up for 2012, as of March 14, and urges club members to reward their support by giving them business:

American Medequip
Arnold Properties
Avalon Hearing Aid Centers Inc.
In Memory of the Becks
Bertolucci's Body & Fender Shop
C&C Plumbing
Cottonwood Estates
East Lawn
Espanol Italian Restaurant
Executive Limousine
Geremia Pools
Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA)
Harper Properties
In Memory of Jerry Jodice
Jolly Rogers
LASEREYES.COM
L & S Surveys
Livingston's Concrete Service
Merrill Bookkeeping Income Tax
Miller's Munchies
R.H. Nielsen Real Estate/Appraisal
NorCal Jackets
Old Hornets
Overhead Door Company of Sacramento Inc.
Rabbit Inc.
Reinwald's Health & Dental Insurance Plans Brokerage
Show Biz Productions
Silver Cats
Sports Leisure Vacations
STORYHAT
Tanner and Associates
VFW Post 67
Mark E. White DDS
Wion's Body Shop
Richard H. Will, Attorney

Anyone who knows of a potential sponsor can help recruitment. The fee is \$300 for the first year, when uniform jerseys are prepared, and \$250 per year thereafter. For more information, contact Dick Latimer at 363-9555. #

NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: APRIL 2012. 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 BEFORE THE PRINTED EDITION ARRIVES VIA U.S. 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