

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

TITLE GAMES ARE CLOSELY CONTESTED

Nail-biting finishes were the standard for this year's Golden Seniors Softball Club league championship games. Three of the six leagues had title games decided by one run. For two others the difference was no more than three runs. Fifty-seven runs were scored in the Wednesday night championship game when the losing team hammered eight balls out of the park, but just one of them counted as a home run. The rest counted, in effect, for no more than a base on balls.

Congratulations to the winners, condolences to the losers... but in this club, there shouldn't be any real losers... just good sports!!! (See Page 2 for details)

EDWARDS LEADS PACK OF HYPER-HITTERS SURPASSING CLUB RECORDS

Hotter bats appeared to make light work of surpassing some all-time Golden Seniors Softball Club hitting performances during 2012.

Three-time .800 hitter Rich Edwards attained a smoking hot new record .882 average in League 6. Monte Miller's previous .844 high of 2011 was also bettered by Steve Schuler's .865 in L3, Geoff Miller's .860 in L4, Mel Tennyson's .847 in L4, Dave Bristol's .847 in L2, Dave Vargo's .846 in L6 and Darrell Heim's .845 in L4.

Other .800 club members in 2012: Jarvis Quenga .839 in L4, Dave Rhodes .824 in L5, Terry Urban .814 in L4, Wally Dorei .814 in L2, Keith Arnold .808 in L3, Steve Casarez .807 in L3, and Monte Miller .803 in L4. Miller is the club's sole four-timer, Edwards a three-timer, while Vargo joined Don Jackson and Emilio Lobato as two-timers.

The .800 club, usually joined by a relative handful of players each year, was not so exclusive in 2012. This achievement was accomplished 14 times this year. This was probably due to hotter bats allowed this year, combined with better balls that the club began using in 2011.

As expected, allowing the use by seniors of higher-performance bats at the Complex produced a substantial upswing in power numbers. Over-the-fence clouts easily surpassed previous years since the Golden Seniors moved to fenced fields at the Complex. (See Page 2)

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

JANUARY 2013

IN THIS ISSUE ...

League Championship games are thrillers

Edwards leads hyper-hitters

Becks edge L&S Surveys for L-1 Title

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Safety Report: J.C. Terry plans safety training course

President's Message: Thank those who work behind the scenes

More pay for umpires, scorekeepers; no dues increase

Board adopts new process for draft eligibility; Get applications in by Dec. 1.

Awards of Merit to Smart and Roach

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Hyperhitters -- From Page 1

L4 (Wednesday night) had 82 home runs, 35 of them clearing the 300-foot fences. L5 (Thursday night) had 89 homers and probably as many or more over the fences as the players are at least as strong as L4. L3 (Tuesday night) had 69 homers with an unknown number of over-the-fence blasts but probably about one-third the number of L4 or L5.

The most prodigious fence-busting HR hitters include Lyman Rose, Jarvis Quenga and Steve Schuler in the night leagues. Long-time club-leading sluggers Rich Ganas and Monta Litle either played in only one league or did not play a full season, and Monte Miller played in only two leagues.

The Tuesday morning leagues, for age 60 and over, had these HR numbers: L2 -- 78 homers, three over the fence by Dave Avery; L6 -- 67 HR, six over the fences, 5 by Jon Ellison and 1 by Rich Edwards. (It should be noted that Avery, Ellison and Edwards are all over 65 years old.)

Lyman Rose tied a club record and set a new L5 record with 10 home runs despite an abbreviated regular-season schedule. Rose also led double-digit HR leaders with 16, Joe Cors and Jarvis Quenga had 15, Terry Urban 12, Monte Miller, Dave Vargo and Emilio Lobato had 11 while Howard Toder and Bill McMahon had 10.

Quenga set a club record with 67 RBI in L4.

2012 League Leaders:

L2: Dave Bristol .847, Wally Dorei .814, Jerry Nevis .781. Mervin Mill had 60 hits, Glen Cole, Bill Greene and Greg Leurgans 54. Joe Cors had 7 HR, Howard Toder 6 and Mill 5. Cors had 58 RBI, Cole and Bristol 45.

L3: Steve Schuler .865, Keith Arnold .808, Steve Casarez .807. Jim Powell had 47 hits, Bob Riola and Casarez 46. Schuler had 9 HR, Casarez and Lobato 7. Mel Tennyson had 51 RBI, Casarez 48 and Schuler 44.

L4: Geoff Miller .860, Mel Tennyson .847, Darrell Heim .845. Quenga had 52 hits, Bill Christian 51 while Gary Brown and Tennyson had 50. Quenga had 9 HR, Dick Reisinger 7, while Eugene Lipscomb, Monte Miller and Terry Urban had 5. Quenga had 67 RBI, Urban 58 and Miller 43.

L5: Dave Rhodes .824, Bill Christian and Lyman Rose .771. Rhodes had 42 hits, Emilio Lobato 40, while Tom Nevarez, Quenga and Tennyson had 39. Rhodes had 39 RBI, Quenga 37 while Rich Ganas and Rose had 36.

L6: Rich Edwards .882, Dave Vargo .846, Vidal Franco .775. Bill Greene had 62 hits, Edwards 60 and Carl Maryland 56. Joe Cors had 8 HR; Jon Ellison, JC Terry, Edwards and Greene 5. Ellison had 63 RBI, Cors 57 and Greene 51.

(Thank you to Scorekeepers Sandy Begg and Colette Barnes. Also appreciated is the effort of Dave Vargo, who turned the stats into this article.) #

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES (FROM PAGE 1)

Here are the results (see separate story for the L-1 championship game). Thanks to scorekeepers Sandy Begg and Colette Barnes for providing most of the details.

L-2: On Sept. 29, VFW Post 67, playing for first-year manager Don Steiner, won the championship in a squeaker, 23-19, over Jolly Rogers, managed by Curtis Holcomb. VFW's Mark Holgerson, Jules Morganstern, Dan Tajbl and Dennis Beaty each drove in four runs. Joe Cors had five RBI with four hits and Bill Greene's four hits drove in four. (SEE PAGE 3)

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES (FROM PAGE 2)

L-3: On Sept. 25, Mike Viduya's towering drive over the fence, a three-run blow in the bottom of the sixth inning, powered Manager Bob Smartt's Livingston Concrete to a thrilling 13-12 victory over Fuddruckers, managed by Dave Vargo, for the Tuesday Night championship. The stands were packed with cheering Fudd fans, but their team, led by the club's regular season home run leader, Lyman Rose, couldn't quite pull off an upset of the hard-hitting cement mixers. Livingston also won a 16-15 thriller from Fuddruckers in the first round of the double-elimination playoffs.

L-4: In the Wednesday Night championship slugfest on Sept. 26, Manager Bud de Souza's Denny's defeated Bertolucci's Body and Fender, co-managed by Hal Johnson and Russ Barnes, 30-27. It was described as a "team effort." Johnson hit the game's only over-the-fence home run, while his teammates knocked seven other balls over the fence that counted as ground-rule singles. Denny's hit no over-the-fence homers but in their six innings of batting, produced five runs per inning. As the home team, they did not have an open inning. Denny's batters made only six outs in the entire game as they rained mostly singles over the infield. De Souza said he asked his team not to hit the ball over the fence as it would open the door for the powerful fender-fixers to get another fence-clearing home run. Johnson said later that this strategy frustrated his team. He was on second base when a teammate cleared the fence, but, unless forced, he could not even advance to third base. Thus Denny's hits within the park proved to be more productive. (Rules prevent a team from hitting a second homer until the other team connects.) Top hitters for Denny's included Dan Norton, five hits and four RBI, and Walt Strickland, three doubles and five RBI. Bertolucci's Mel Tennyson had a monster game, driving in eight runs with three singles (one over the fence), a double and a sacrifice fly. Johnson drove in six teammates and pitcher Bud Lesorge had five hits and three RBI. The game ended on a great fielding play by Strickland, who snared Barnes' bid for a hit, stepped on second and threw to first.

L-5: Miller's Munchies, led by Manager Monte Miller, edged Overhead Door, 12-11, in the Thursday Night League championship game. Overhead Door was managed by Don Jackson. Jay Aguas' single in the seventh drove home Rich Ganas for the victory. Jim Liston of Miller's had two solo shots over the fence, while Bill Conwell cleared the fence in the sixth inning for Overhead.

L-6: In a stunning comeback from a 15-5 deficit, Russ Barnes' fifth-seeded Mark White DDS won the Tuesday 10:30 a.m. league title, 20-19, over Lasereyes.com. Tom Sansone sprinted home with the winning run on Barnes' grounder, beating Dave Vargo's throw by a step or two, in the bottom of the seventh inning. Sixth-seeded Lasereyes was managed by Dave Bristol. Top hitters: Joe Cors led Mark White with two doubles and a three-run homer, driving in five runs. Ron Roach also had five RBI with a double and three singles. Vic Torres had five hits for the winners. Lasereyes' Bill Ferguson had two singles and two doubles, driving in four runs, and Dave Vargo had a single, double and three-run homer. Barnes won two championship shirts as he also played on the winning L-2 team earlier in the day.

#

MONDAY MORNING NEWS: HIGHLIGHTS OF L-1 PLAYOFFS

From Commissioner Henry Low

Bill and Shirley Beck defeated L&S Surveys 12-9 in the Sept. 29 L-1 championship game at the picnic, capping a season of 19 victories and just four losses and a tie. The title game was close, with Becks holding a 10-9 lead going into the seventh inning.

Both teams played well defensively, by L-1 standards, with only a few miscues, but Becks hitting proved to be the difference. The top-of-the-seventh rally featured singles by Larry Windham and Ernie Shaffer, plus Fred Fischer's double. Then, with two outs, a second intentional walk to Henry Low put him on second and scored Shaffer.

L&S Surveys, managed by Benny Benson and Eugene Malone, were led by Bob McBee, Tom Arnold and Malone, with three hits each, while Jack Tibbets had a hit and was walked twice.

Becks, managed by John Chatfield and Ernie Kidwell, had three hits each from Shaffer, Fischer, Guy Anderson, Jim Lamm and Bob Annecone. Fischer and Annecone both had a double and a triple.

There was just one L-1 playoff game this year because Becks, sponsored by the family of the late Billy and Shirley Beck, won two of the three rounds of head-to-head regular season games and advanced directly to the championship game at the picnic. On Sept. 26, L&S Surveys made it to the championship game by beating Nielsen Real Estate, 8-2. Nielsen was managed by Bob Nielsen and Norm Blackwell Sr.

#

SAFETY REPORT: TERRY PLANS CPR/AED TRAINING

Club Safety Coordinator **J.C. Terry** reports that he is working with the Red Cross to schedule CPR/AED training for Golden Seniors members early in 2013 if not sooner. The class is free for members of the club. Once certified by the Red Cross, members are qualified to receive red GSSCS caps. They are easily recognized as trained in the use of the club's defibrillator, which is kept in the club's red "crash cart."

Anyone interested in signing up for the class should contact Terry at 457-3393.

The club's group of players and/or umpires who completed CPR-AED training in 2012: **Tom Bussey, John Hains, Dick Latimer, Greg Leurgans, Paul Rogers, Dave Tanner and Cloicec Wade.** #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH -- Rest in Peace: Joe Moreno

Life Member **Joe Moreno** passed away on Aug. 18. He was 93. Joe joined the Golden Seniors in 1981. He played several years before moving to Penn Valley, where he started a senior league. He returned to the Golden Seniors in 1990, playing until 2002. Joe was involved with traveling tournament teams as a manager and player. His 90th birthday party was attended by about 200 people. Besides softball, Joe enjoyed golf and was a member of the Mexican-American Golf Hall of Fame.

Injuries. L-1 injury notes from Sept. 16 ... Keith Gittens, shortstop for Joe Kline's Show Biz Productions, pulled his stomach muscles so severely that he was declared out for the season. ... Cotton Blaylock reported that he was requiring surgery ... Don Pooler couldn't play due to major foot and ankle problems ... Leslie Harper had his foot in a walking cast ...

Night league player Dave Raydon was sidelined with a broken foot. #

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Tom Sansone

I want to reflect on 2012 and thank those who made this season possible. First, we need to recognize the Board of Directors for guiding us through this very busy year with more activity than in most years. As a result, we had many board meetings in addition to seven general membership meetings.

We need to acknowledge the Rules Committee, led by Jerry Nevis. They worked hard to recommend about two dozen changes to the rules, some big, some small. About 85% of these were approved and published in a new rule book. Sometimes the committee was frustrated by the board's apprehension and we need to thank them for their efforts -- and their patience.

We also need to thank the umpires and the scorekeepers. Tom Bussey and his crew of umpires guided us through 380-plus games during the year. Sandy Begg, the head scorekeeper, was also a big help. It's always handy to have those numbers which make the games more interesting.

There are club members who work to add features to this club that make us seem like real pros. Ron Roach edits the Dugout Chatter, Henry Low runs the computer data base and Don Shank handles the hot line answering machine. Jim Wait makes sure the Dugout Chatter is put in the mail with labels supplied by Low. Without these guys, and the volunteer jobs they do, we would be half the club we are. Their efforts make us all look good. We thank them for the jobs they do so well.

The picnic planning team also needs a "thank you." For many years, we have been shown how a picnic should be run. Dante Ciardella, Hank Fontes, Benny Benson and Arnie Wilkerson served as role models for a new group of members who planned the 2012 picnic: Bill Hill, Dave Vargo, Pete Ward and Jim Wait met and planned the picnic we enjoyed in September. They enlisted the help of Trudy and Bob Smartt, Bill Greene, Howard Shaw, Larry Lagomarsino and Mark Cordell. I was very pleased at how it turned out.

We also need to thank the league commissioners and team managers who helped coordinate all the teams. They not only play ball but work at making the club function smoothly. We have 39 teams playing in six leagues. That's a lot of players and a lot of ball games. They do a great job.

Then there are people who do extra stuff but don't have a title. They just do what they can to make the club better. An example: Did you notice the home plate mats were painted this year? Thanks to efforts of Bill Greene and Pete Anagnoston, the old and worn black mats look like new, with new white highlights that are easier to see.

And there is Lou Coppola, who not only takes team photos, he has them placed on plaques to present to our sponsors -- a big job that he has done for many years. Lou is the club's ultimate volunteer.

There also is Jamyn Jodice. He is not a softball player. His dad, Jerry, was a club president and very dedicated safety coordinator. Jamyn has continued, in his dad's memory, to help the club by mastering the club's web site. We owe him our deep appreciation.

I'm sure I have left out some of the "behind the scenes" people who help this club operate, and I must apologize for that. As you can see, there is a real team effort by many people who make this club what it is. We owe them all a big THANK YOU!

#

Board Boosts Pay of Umpires and Scorekeepers; No Dues Increase

The Board of Directors has approved more pay for the club's umpires and scorekeepers. Umpires in 2013 will receive a \$3 increase to \$25 per game. Scorekeeper pay will be \$12, an increase of \$2 per game. The umpires and scorekeepers requested the increase, which was granted by the board which noted there had not been an increase in several years. For the approximately 380 games, the board budgeted \$14,000 to pay umpires and scorekeepers in 2013. This represents an increase of \$1,900 over the 2012 season.

The club ended the 2012 fiscal year with a slight surplus and had considered reducing dues. However, with the higher per-game rate for umpires and scorekeepers, the board decided to maintain the level of dues for 2013. Each \$5 in dues represents about \$2,500 to the club.

First-Come, First-Served Rule for League Drafts is Adopted for 2013

The Board of Directors in August repealed the club's league draft priority rule (Standing Rule 13) and replaced it with a process that will accept player applications for all leagues on a first-come, first-served basis. The date that an application is received by the player agent is the sole determination of whether the player will be eligible for a league draft. No longer will there be a confusing system of ranking players that could prevent players from being on draft lists for all requested leagues.

Any new application or renewal application received before Dec. 1 will be admitted to the draft in any league requested. Those applications received after the Dec. 1 due date will be admitted to drafts based on the date the player agent receives the application. For example, if L-2 has room for 72 players, all those applications received by Dec. 1 will be in the draft. Those received after Dec. 1 will be on a waiting list. If there were 63 applications for L-2 on Dec. 1, then the first nine applications received for that league after Dec. 1 will be on the draft list. The rest go on a waiting list.

Thus, to guarantee being drafted on a team in a league or leagues of the player's choice, it behooves players to get their applications on file by Dec. 1.

Renewal applications were expected to be in the mail by the time this newsletter went to press. Renewal and new applications also will be available online at www.gsscs.org. For more information, contact the club's player agent, Myron Dahl, at 451-2450.

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NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

There is only one more issue of the Dugout Chatter during 2012 -- the November-December issue, due online in early December. Meantime, check the club website for news updates and photos. (www.gsscs.org) Unless you have opted not to receive the print edition via snail mail, you should be getting it in your mailbox during the months when the club does not have games. If you want to save the club postage and printing expense, call Henry Low at 391-3938.

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 or RON ROACH, 422-2500. #

SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

2012 Christmas Luncheon. For Monday morning players, wives, sweethearts, retirees and old friends, the annual Christmas luncheon will be on Monday, Dec. 3, from 11:30 to 1:30, at China Buffet, 5623 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights. Price: \$11, payable at the luncheon. RSVP to George or Rory Hodsdon 481-9304. #

Like-New Home Plate Mats. Bill Greene, L-4 commissioner, noticed that the club's home plate mats needed some sprucing up. Thanks to the volunteer painting by Life Member Pete Anagnoston, mission accomplished. #

To: All Softball Players; From: Greg Leurgans We are playing softball practice games at Carmichael Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. Hope to see you there. Pass the word. This is an excellent way to stay in shape through the fall and winter. Note: This is not a GSSCS-sponsored event. #

Perfect Game Pitched in Slow Pitch! It happened about 30 years ago, and GSSCS Life Member Lloyd Wagoner recalls the game in the November-December Dugout Chatter. #

SMARTT AND ROACH ARE 2012 AWARD OF MERIT HONOREES

Trudy Smartt and Ron Roach were honored at the Sept. 29 club picnic as recipients of the club's Award of Merit for 2012.

Smartt, who is believed to be the first woman to pitch a complete game victory in a L-3 Golden Seniors night league championship game, was recognized for her contributions to the club as a team manager as well as serving as the club's Sunshine and Health chairperson. She joined the club in 2003 and, when asked to help, says, "What do you need and when do you need it?" She is the second woman to be so honored (Susan Tucker, 2007).

Roach joined the club in 1996 and has served as a L-3 manager (who drafted Trudy and husband Bob Smartt in their rookie GSSCS seasons). For the past six years, Ron has edited the club's Dugout Chatter newsletter print and online editions. He is a retired Associated Press and San Diego Tribune reporter who covered sports and politics. He also was director of communications for the California Taxpayers Association.

Past recipients of the award, formerly called the Man of the Year, form the committee that decides each year's honoree or honorees. Anyone in the club may, in confidence, nominate someone for consideration. Awards are not announced until the club's annual picnic.

AWARD OF MERIT/MAN OF YEAR RECIPIENTS

1991 BILL TURNER
1993 KEN DUMONT
1993 JACK PRESSLEY
1994 RALPH CONGDON
1994 DARYL COOK
1995 DANTE CIARDELLA
1995 BILL SULLIVAN
1997 BENNY BENSON
1998 GEORGE HODSDON
1998 LOU COPPOLA
2000 ERNIE KIDWELL
2002 KEN WOLLENBERG
2003 JIM LORTZ
2004 FOSTER MAXWELL
2005 ED CAMPINI
2005 DOUG MCCREARY
2006 HENRY FONTES
2007 JAMES POWELL SR.
2007 SUSAN TUCKER
2008 DICK SEWARD
2009 DAVE VARGO
2010 BOB HAVRILLA
2011 HENRY LOW
2011 TOM SANSONE
2012 TRUDY SMARTT
2012 RON ROACH

#



***2012 Award of Merit recipients
Ron Roach and Trudy Smartt
were introduced at the Sept. 29
club picnic. (Lou Coppola
photo)***

SPONSORS FOR 2012

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

American Medequip (Sponsoring 2 teams, the second in memory of Alicia's father-in-law, Billy Beck)

Arnold Properties

Avalon Hearing Aid Centers Inc.

In Memory of Billy and Shirley Beck

Bertolucci's Body & Fender Shop

C&C Plumbing & Electrical

Cottonwood Estates

East Lawn

Espanol Italian Restaurant (Sponsoring 2 teams)

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

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. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2012-13

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 **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941

Player Agent **Myron Dahl** ... 451-2450
(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:

Asst. Secretary Henry Low
391-3938

Player Applications: Myron
Dahl 451-2450

Sunshine & Health: Trudy
Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:
456-1500

Safety: Coordinator J.C. Terry
457-3393

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach,
editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)

Planning: Merritt Davis,
393-7160