

DUGOUT CHATTER

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

BOARD WANTS 2013 SCHEDULE TO START IN MARCH AND CONCLUDE BY MID-SEPTEMBER

The 2013 Golden Seniors season will begin as early as mid-March to maximize the regular-season schedule, play league championship games and hold the club picnic by the second Saturday of September.

Club President Tom Sansone explained the scheduling plan for next season as discussed by club directors at the board's Nov. 20 meeting. "We're going to schedule our league games every week that the Complex is available. We will play as often as the Complex is available." The plan is pending the availability of the Complex fields during March for the club's Tuesday morning and night leagues.

There may be one or two weeks out of the season that the Complex is tied up with high school softball tournaments, but otherwise the GSSCS will be playing. This means there will be no bye weeks for the Reno and California Cup tournaments. "We need to consult with the Complex but we hope to begin the second or third week of March and end the second week of September," Sansone said.

The club usually begins regular season games in early April. (Note: L-1 on Mondays has, in recent years, begun regular season play at Howe Park in March to accommodate a nine-team league with one team getting a bye each week.)

Thus the season-ending league championship games and picnic will avoid conflicts with the Medford and Las Vegas senior softball tournaments. GSSCS league teams that lose players to the Reno tournament the week of Memorial Day or the Cal Cup in the summer will have to arrange for substitutes if they are short of players.

GSSCS night leagues generally are not as impacted by the Reno or Cal Cup schedules as their players are mostly on "younger" weekend bracket teams.

The board cannot predict the weather. In some years, skies are clear until April or May, when regular season rainouts occur. In other years, rain falls in March, wiping out practice games. (See Page 2)

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
JAN. 14, 2013
7:30 P.M.
VFW HALL
2784 STOCKTON BLVD.**

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Board plans earlier start to 2013 season.

A perfect game in slow-pitch softball? It happened nearly a quarter-century ago.

Sunshine & Health Report: Dave Vargo survives heart attack -- thanks to working out to recuperate from knee replacement surgery.

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

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BOARD WANTS TO BEGIN LEAGUE PLAY IN MARCH (FROM PAGE 1)

The board, at this writing, was still waiting for the Complex to discuss league fees for 2013 and present a bill for the second half of 2012 league play. Sansone said neither the Complex nor the Howe Park venues expects to hike fees for 2013. He said the Complex has been reseeding the fields as part of "serious" renovations this fall and winter that should improve playing conditions.

2013 Signups. Player Agent Myron Dahl reported that, as of mid-November, L-1 on Mondays for 70 and older players had 51 signups to lead all leagues. The Thursday night league, L-5, had the fewest, nine. Sansone said the board was still hopeful that the majority of returning players, to exercise seniority rights to play on the league or leagues of their choice, would get in their applications by Dec. 1. After that, players will be accepted for the league drafts on a first-come, first-served basis. For example, in a six-team, 12-player league, if there are 60 signups by Dec. 1, the next 12 players signing up for that league will be in the draft. Players beyond 72 will be placed on a waiting list.

Sansone said new players needing applications should contact a board director or returning player, who got an extra application in their renewal application mailings. Efforts are also being made to post applications on the club website, www.gsscs.org.

2013 Club Meeting Schedule. The board scheduled general membership meetings for Jan. 14, Feb. 11, March 11, May 13, July 8, and Aug. 12. These Monday meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 67 Hall on Stockton Boulevard. A seventh general meeting is scheduled to coincide with the club picnic in September. (The club's bylaws require at least six general meetings per year.)

Picnic Report. The board felt the 2012 picnic was successful in that expenditures totaled \$3,796. The board had budgeted \$4,000 for the event, which had run well over budget in recent years. The contract with the caterer called for serving 200 meals. The actual number served was 194. Sansone said the caterer wants to join the club as a player!

Officers Sworn In. Four club directors who were unable to attend the picnic were sworn in for 2013: First VP Dick Latimer, 2nd VP Pete Ward, Treasurer Don Wall and Secretary Dave Tanner.

Team Photos. Doug Austin, who owns and operates a photo studio, has agreed to take team photos for the night leagues in 2013. Ward said he would take photos of the day league teams. Lou Coppola, who handled this job for many years, is handing over the responsibility.

Rules. Sansone said the board decided not to appoint a rules committee for 2013. He said the board is capable of dealing with any rules problem that surfaces. It was felt that the club playing rules were so extensively studied and debated in recent years that there was no need for a standing committee to consider changes during the year ahead. #

NOSTALGIA DEPARTMENT

EVER HEAR OF A PERFECT GAME IN SLOW-PITCH? IT HAPPENED ONE SUMMER DAY LONG AGO, AND GSSCS MEMBERS RECALL BEING ON THE WINNING SIDE

Roughly a quarter-century ago, a slow-pitch softball team loaded with excellent fielders and hitters -- and a terrific pitcher who could pretty much put the ball where he wanted -- may have accomplished as rare a feat as can be imagined for this type and caliber of amateur sport.

It was a perfectly pitched and defended game. As Ray Gallagher, an infielder on the team, recalled: "It was the last inning and I thought, Holy cats, if we get these guys out, it'll be a perfect game!" In slow pitch, just about every swing will put a ball into play, so a shutout is rare. A perfect game -- no hits, no walks, no errors: "It's like an impossibility!"

This was a team called the Sacramento Braves, managed by Lloyd Wagoner, now 92, who was the pitcher that mid-1980s summer day in Hayward. It was a 60-and-over tournament game against the San Jose Vintage. The final score was 15-0. The game was called after five innings because of a 15-run "mercy" rule used in that tournament.

The Braves were mostly members of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento, said Gallagher, now 86. "We had a really good team, a remarkable team. Lloyd was six or seven years older and a really good pitcher."

A number of the players on that team have passed on, two of them this year: Jim McNamara and Hi Witt. Several years ago, Gil Mashburn, who was a fireman, died of injuries suffered when he fell from a tree that he was trimming. Gil, the team's rover, caught three balls that were lined into short centerfield, preserving the perfecto. (Wagoner: Mashburn not only saved the perfect game, he is remembered for saving the life of a player who was stricken while playing in a Yuba City tournament, using skills he had learned as a firefighter.)

Gallagher recalls that the San Jose team had a really big and strong hitter who slugged one over the fence -- foul. That was as close to a hit he could remember, other than the balls snared by the fleet-footed Mashburn.

Ed Garcia, the recently retired federal judge, played first base on this team, with McNamara and Gallagher playing shortstop and second base. "We were a really good-fielding team. Gil was kind of a scrawny guy who could run well. The other team hit liners up the middle and that day Gil rose to the heights."

And Wagoner made it really tough on the San Jose batters because, Garcia noted, "He could put the ball any place he wanted."

Wagoner, who joined the GSSCS in 1980, when he turned 60, is a 32-year member. He recalled the perfect game at the club's picnic in September. He listed players who contributed as Garcia, Gallagher, Mashburn, McNamara, Hal Seifer, John Latino, Cliff Shirk, John Bothne, Bob Warmack and Mike Ingle.

Shutouts in slow pitch are unusual. No-hitters are extremely rare in slow-pitch, if not unheard of. A perfect game? No one seems to recall a perfecto -- even one called for a mercy rule after five frames -- occurring anywhere, anytime -- except for that summer day in Hayward. #

GOLDEN SENIOR “IRON MAN” DAVE VARGO SUFFERS HEART ATTACK

L2 Commissioner Dave Vargo suffered a heart attack on Oct. 20 and credits his rapid recovery to the extensive exercise program that enabled him to get back on the playing field this year following double knee replacement surgery.

Vargo, known as one of the club’s “iron men” for playing in multiple leagues over the years, said his symptoms were moderate chest tightening and anxiety. He said he “generally felt lousy” but maintained full consciousness throughout the episode, including the stenting installation.

He said he had 99 percent blockage of both major left coronary arteries. This sort of blockage would severely disabled or killed many people, but he had done a lot of cardio exercise, plus two to three hours of adaptive elyptical running and pool laps just to lubricate his knees so he could run. The cardio work develops collateral arteries that carry blood and oxygen when the major arteries are blocked. Life-saver!

His cardiac surgeon cleared him to resume normal activity on Nov. 6. After a full workout later that day, he played a double-header Nov. 8 at Carmichael Park.

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SAFETY REPORT: TERRY PLANS CPR/AED TRAINING

Club Safety Coordinator **J.C. Terry**: I am working to set up a CPR/Safety class during January 2013 with the exact date and time to be determined upon confirmation with officials at Howe Park. Anyone interested in taking the class, which also covers use of the club’s AED (defibrillator), should email me at terry_173@sbcglobal.net or call at (916) 505-2570. I need to know how many GSSCS members will attend the class and provide the information to Howe Park.

Those who complete the class and are certified by the Red Cross are qualified to wear red GSSCS hats. The club pays the costs of this class, which takes about five hours and is likely to be scheduled on a Saturday.

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.** #

First-Come, First-Served Rule for League Drafts is Adopted for 2013 (Repeating Article from Sept-Oct Dugout Chatter)

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: JANUARY The next issue of the Dugout Chatter is due in mid-January. 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

To: All Softball Players; From: Greg Leurgans

Weather permitting, practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 8:30, at Carmichael Park. This is an excellent way to stay in shape through the fall and winter. These practices are not GSSCS events. #

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 Cell: 505-2570

Entertainment: Lou Coppola

444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach,

editor 422-2500

(coachrwr@comcast.net)