

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) -- FEBRUARY 2013

DRAFTS AND SCHEDULES ARE SET FOR 2013 GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL

The Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento launches another season in March and, weather permitting, there will be up to 24 weeks of games at the Sacramento Softball Complex where five of the club's six leagues play.

The season opens March 12 and winds up on Saturday, Sept. 7, with the club's league championship games and picnic at Howe Park.

At the club's Feb. 11 general meeting, President Tom Sansone announced that the club's leagues that play Tuesday mornings, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights will schedule games on every date that the Complex is available. During the week of May 20, the complex is booked, except for Thursday night, allowing L5 to play that week. On Thursday, July 4, L5 will be idle. GSSCS will not schedule games the week of July 29, when the complex is unavailable.

"Every other week we're gonna play!" Sansone said, unless weather interferes or the Complex has to shut down for other reasons. Games have been canceled in the past due to thefts of copper wiring and broken water pipes.

Sansone said the club's Board of Directors decided not to schedule byes because of major Senior Softball USA tournaments, such as Reno the week of Memorial Day. Such schedule interruptions in the past have been unfair to the majority of members who do not play on traveling tournament teams. If GSSCS teams are short-handed, they can arrange for substitute players, Sansone said.

With wet weather and bye weeks, it has not been unusual in the past for GSSCS leagues to be idle for as many as three consecutive weeks in May-June.

By beginning league games March 12-14, the club may or may not run into rainy days early in the season, but there also have been years when the major rainfall has occurred in late April and May after a dry period in March. (See Page 2)

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
MARCH 11, 2013
7:30 P.M.
VFW HALL
2784 STOCKTON BLVD.**

**IN THIS ISSUE ...
From Feb. 11 meeting: Club schedules regular season openers March 12-14 at the Complex; club recruiting efforts; new sponsors; player signup report.**

Safety Report: J.C. Terry schedules more training March 9 after nine members complete training Feb. 9.

Monday Morning News: Overrun with signups, L1 forms a 10th team.

Sunshine & Health Report.

Short hops and long bounces.

List of Sponsors.

CLUB NEWS FROM FEB. 11 GENERAL MEETING (FROM PAGE 1)

L-1, playing Mondays at Howe Park, expects to play practice games in mid-March before beginning play with 10 teams -- one more than last year -- on March 25. (See separate story on L1).

PLAYER RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

As of Feb. 11, the club had 33 new members, with an unknown number resulting from the \$1,000 radio advertising campaign on K-HITS 92.1. At least one new member used the station's website to download a GSSCS player application to join the club. Other club information was handed out to prospective players at a Wal-Mart. Another member, Chuck Knutson, said he saw the club's flyer on the website, made copies and got permission to post it at his health club and a number of community senior centers in the Land Park-Greenhaven-Oak Park area.

An article about the Golden Seniors also has been published in community newspapers serving Land Park, the Pocket, East Sacramento and the Arden-Carmichael areas. Through the efforts of Lou Coppola, each publication, with a total of 60,000 circulation, was to publish a full-page ad with support from long-time club sponsors Avalon Hearing Centers, Bertolucci's Body and Fender, C&C Plumbing, Espanol Italian Restaurant, and Overhead Door Company of Sacramento. The club initially was going to buy a quarter-page ad for \$125. "Thanks to these long-time supporters of our club, we have been able to really stretch our \$125," said Coppola, who also thanked the staff of Valley Community News for their excellent work in designing the ad.

EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Sansone said about 70 percent of the club's nearly 500 members are receiving email communications from the club. However, about 30 percent of those are not actually opening the emails and thus not reading them. He urged members to remind their fellow members that they could be missing out on important club announcements if they decide not to open the club emails.

It was noted that attendance at the club's general meetings has improved since Sansone has messaged the membership with meeting date reminders.

SPONSOR PRESENTATION

Arranged by Dick Latimer, the club's first vice president, an owner of Avalon Hearing Centers, Betty Vosters-Kemp, attended the Feb. 11 meeting and provided members information on how to determine whether they are suffering hearing loss. She said GSSCS members are eligible for free screenings. She also handed out video DVDs featuring Jon Ellison, a GSSCS member who gives testimony about how Avalon Hearing has improved his life. Anyone wanting more information can contact Avalon at 483-9064, or visit the website (www.AvalonHearing.com). Latimer said wants to invite other club sponsors to attend club meetings.

Latimer also said he has room for four more sponsors for 2013. The club will field 40 teams. New sponsors so far this year: Sam's Hof Brau, Tri-C Machine Company of Auburn, Inc., Rapid Solutions and Capitol Barricade. Sponsors of two teams: Avalon Hearing, Espanol Restaurant and Ray Merrill. A complete list of sponsors who have paid is elsewhere in this newsletter. (See Page 3)

LEAGUE SIGNUPS

Assistant Club Secretary Henry Low reported that the current club roster has 499 active or inactive members. These included 149 life members, 72 of them in non-playing status. There were 100 multi-league players filling 227 slots in leagues. Seventy-one members from 2012 had not yet responded to renewal applications sent to them by mail. These include five life members who will not be dropped from the roster. (Note: It was erroneously reported in the January issue that a new life member had moved away from Sacramento and had been dropped from the club roster. Low points out that life members are not dropped unless, of course, they are deceased.)

Sansone said the Thursday night L5 signups were lagging behind, as usual, and if necessary that league will start with fewer than 12 players per team. As of Feb. 11, L2 had 76 signups; L3 had 78; L4 had 65; L5 had 49, and L6 had 75. As usual, L1, for players 70 and older, had well over the number of players needed for this nine-team league, 137, so the decision was made to add a 10th team. For leagues of six teams with 12 players, a waiting list is established for players beyond number 72 on the signup list. Waiting lists are usually depleted within a month or so due to injuries and illnesses.

RULES

The board has acted on several rule changes, none considered major enough to require publishing of a new rule book. Once the language of the new rules is cleaned up, members will be informed of the changes by their managers, through email or in the newsletter or on the website.

The board approved a penalty for teams whose outfielder violates the 150-foot rule. In the umpire's judgment, a violation will result in a warning for the first offense. Subsequent offenses will result in the batter being awarded first base and any runner will advance one base. The defensive team manager may choose to waive the penalty if it is determined that the rule was violated intentionally to limit a powerful batter to one base.

Dues-paying first-year players who substitute before being assigned to a team will be allowed to play any position, not just catcher or right-field, and bat anywhere in the lineup, not just at the bottom of the order. These exemptions do not apply to a waiting list player who has declined a team assignment.

The league commissioner is authorized to assign a replacement player to a team with a player missing at least three games without the manager's approval.

If there is no top draft pick player on the waiting list to replace a player who had been drafted in the first round, the player assigned to that team will be the one who has been on the waiting list longest, regardless of perceived ability or position preference. If there is conflict involving the league commissioner, the club commissioner will resolve the issue.

The board decided not to change existing language that allows each league's commissioner and league managers to decide how to rate managers and assistant managers in league drafts. This position was taken despite concerns expressed by some that there will be teams with more than one "first-rounder." #

SAFETY REPORT

NINE MEMBERS ARE NEWLY TRAINED TO HELP SAVE LIVES; ANOTHER CLASS IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 9 TO LEARN CPR AND AED PROCEDURES; SIGN UP BY MARCH 5

Nine Golden Seniors completed training on Feb. 9 to be certified as qualified to administer life-saving first aid, and another class is scheduled for March 9, reports club Safety Coordinator J.C. Terry.

Terry said he looks forward to bestowing red GSSCS hats to those who take and complete the Red Cross training in CPR and AED (defibrillator).

Those who took the recent course for first-time certification or recertification: Jon Ellison, Michael Immoos, Chuck Knutson, Richard O'Brien, Don Shank, Ken Taylor, Bill Greene, Ron Thomas, and Gerry Rohlfes.

Those who took the course in 2012 also rate red hats: Tom Bussey, Cloicec Wade, John Hains, Dick Latimer, Greg Leurgans, Paul Rogers, Dave Tanner, John Lack, Nancy Diehl and Trudy Smartt.

Terry said the deadline is Tuesday, March 5, to register for the Saturday, March 9 class, at Cottage Center, 3097 Cottage Way, at Morse Avenue, across from the Kaiser at Morse. The class begins at 9 a.m. and must have at least four students or it will be canceled.

Shank said he found on Feb. 9 that there are techniques in administering CPR that differ from what he learned when he was certified more than a decade ago.

The training is provided free of charge for all GSSCS members, a value of about \$70 per trainee.

Terry also is calling on anyone in the club who has completed training through their employment or other place to send him a copy of their certification so he can keep it on file.

For further information and to register for the March 9 course, contact Terry at 916 457-3393 or on his cell phone 505-2570, or by email: terry_173@sbcglobal.net.

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MONDAY MORNING NEWS

OVERRUN WITH SIGNUPS, L1 FORMS 10TH TEAM

Co-Commissioners Henry Low and George Hodsdon have been busy preparing for the L1 draft for 10 teams that was scheduled for Feb. 19. Some pre-draft issues were clarified at a meeting with managers on Feb. 12.

As of Feb. 11, 137 players had signed up for the Monday morning league for players 70 and over. A few more players will be available later in the season. The 137 players are 10 more than were drafted a year ago, when the league had nine teams.

All available players will be drafted. Some teams will have 13 players; others will have 14, to begin the season.

Also, L1 lost two managers from last season, requiring Low and Hodsdon to recruit three new ones: Don Mockler, Ernie Shaffer and, with the addition of the 10th team, Al Tirapelli.

“We have our playing schedule pretty well set, but have to finalize some rule changes and complete our draft. Then we should be ready to play ball,” Low said.

L1, which has divided the regular season into thirds in recent years, plans to begin the regular season on March 25 and play two rounds. The first round will run nine weeks with five games to be played on the two-diamond Howe Park complex. The second round, beginning in mid-June, will play over 11 Mondays, with four games on each date. Thus the games will be over before mid-day when summer temperatures soar.

The playoff format has yet to be determined.

Depending on the weather, practice games will be scheduled prior to March 25. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT: BENSON TO HAVE SURGERY

Enoch “Benny” Benson, 80, a L-1 team manager and 30-year member, was scheduled for four-way bypass surgery in February. #

NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: MARCH The next issue of the Dugout Chatter is due to be posted online in mid-March. If you have provided an email address, you will receive a message with a link to the website (www.gsscs.org) to access the Dugout Chatter online. If the club has your email address, you will be taken off the regular mailing list for the Dugout Chatter. Sponsors and members who do not have access to the Internet will continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter. #

SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

TPA DINNER-DANCE. The Tournament Players Association invites GSSCS members to attend the annual Dinner-Dance on Saturday night, March 2, at the Lakeview Village Clubhouse in Citrus Heights. TPA members are free; wives are \$12 and guests are \$15.

For details, call TPA President Bob Lowery: 275-0953. #

SPONSORS FOR 2013

First VP Dick Latimer lists these paid club sponsors for 2013, as of Feb. 11, and urges club members to reward their support by giving them business:

ARNOLD PROPERTIES

AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 1)

AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 2)

BERTOLUCCI BODY & FENDER SHOP, INC.

BETTER SOFTBALL EQUIPMENT

C&C PLUMBING

***CAPITOL BARRICADE**

COTTONWOOD ESTATES

OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.

ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)

ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)

EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE

GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

HARPER PROPERTIES

JERRY JODICE, MEMORY OF

JOLLY ROGERS

LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE

L&S SURVEYS

MARK E. WHITE, DDS

MERRILL'S BOOKKEEPING AND TAX (Ray Merrill)

R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE

9TH AND X STORAGE

NORCAL JACKETS

***RAPID SOLUTIONS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS**

RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)

REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS BROKERAGE

***SAM'S HOF BRAU**

SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS

SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS

TANNER AND ASSOCIATES

***TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF AUBURN, INC.**

WION'S BODY SHOP

* -- New Sponsor for 2013

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)