

# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) -- MARCH 2014

## **GOLDEN SENIORS GEAR UP FOR 35TH SEASON OF SOFTBALL**

Marking the club's 35th year since formation in 1979, and sporting a new seventh league, the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento scheduled practice games the week of March 17 with regular season play beginning the week of March 24.

Seven teams in the Monday league (L-1) were set to play at Howe Park followed by the new four-team L-7 was to play at 10:30, after it was determined that work was under way to prepare the fields. Otherwise, the board was considering moving the Monday day leagues to the Sacramento Softball Complex. Sansone said word went out to the Monday Commissioner to plan for play on two Howe Park fields that are available, adjusting schedules to permit play on the additional field when it is considered playable. Concerns were raised at the February meeting that players, including those who have had knee and hip surgeries, should not be exposed to unsafe field conditions. (See Monday Morning News for more L-1 and L-7 schedule detail.)

Monday leagues are for players 70 and over. (Note: women can sign up to play if they are within five years of the minimum age for men. Women primarily choose to play on Tuesday nights when the league has more of a coed atmosphere.)

On Tuesday at the Complex, the 9 a.m. L-2 was increased from six to seven teams this season. L-6, playing at 10:30, has six teams. These two leagues are for men 60 and over and women 55 and over.

Night leagues on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for players 50 and over (45 and over for women) began drafting teams the week of March 10 and were expected to complete the process March 19 for the Wednesday night league.

**Pitchers and Protective Masks.** At the March 10 general meeting, the club board presented two new rule adjustments. According to President Tom Sansone, the GSSCS added rule 5.7 to Playing Rules saying pitchers are encouraged to use protective face masks and other protective gear but are not required to do so. The Senior Softball USA rules were changed (See Page 2)

## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING:**

**MAY 12, 2014  
7:30 p.m. at VFW  
HALL, 2784  
STOCKTON  
BLVD.**

### ***IN THIS ISSUE ...***

***Board acts on rules and leagues draft for Golden Seniors' 35th year of play. News from March 10 general meeting.***

***Monday Morning News.***

***Sunshine & Health Report: Iron Man McMahon to get new knee.***

***Safety Report.***

***Remember When: Top batters in 1985.***

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**GETTING READY FOR NEW SEASON. Club Safety Coordinator J.C. Terry (left) and Club 2nd VP Chuck Knutson check out the “crash cart” and practice on Carl Maryland after L-6 practice games on March 18 at the Complex. J.C. is holding the club’s AED (defibrillator). Ron Roach photo.**

## NEWS FROM MARCH 10 MEETING (FROM PAGE 1)

for 2014 requiring pitchers to wear face masks, and the club observes SSUSA rules unless it adopts its own.

**Players on Defense.** Under Playing Rule 3.4, under exceptions to the three-inning fielder requirement, in games where more than 11 players on a team are available to play on defense, the team manager may elect to play fewer than three innings on defense to allow additional playing time for other players. When this occurs, the manager may bat in the lineup.

**Batters Box.** The board chose not to act on a proposal to reinstate a batters box rule designed to prevent batters from “running up” on a pitch and to prevent batters from obstructing the plate with their league prior to a pitch. In what was described as a lively discussion, Sansone said it was clear that a majority of the members present did not feel the batter’s box should be used. Chief Umpire Tom Bussey noted that the SSUSA batter’s box, 3 feet by seven feet, still allows batters to “walk the box” -- taking several steps before hitting the ball. He also pointed out that it is illegal for a batter to obstruct the front of the plate with his body. A batter can be called out for doing so. Sansone said “it was clear the use of a box would not resolve the issues raised by the proposal.”

Sansone also said he has been working on combining the three sets of rules used by the club into one document that can be posted on the club web site. Further discussion was needed on whether the club would print a new rules booklet for the membership.

In other news, club first VP Dave Vargo reported 39 paid sponsors for 42 teams, plus another pledged. He added that he has a quasi-commitment for one and was working on another.

The club’s two new sponsors are Yancey Company, a home building and remodeling company, and a second sponsorship from R.H. Nielsen Real Estate/Appraisal (Team #2). Bob Nielsen is managing a team in both L-1 and the new L-7.

Second VP Chuck Knutson said new sponsor jerseys would be available shortly. Jerseys have been distributed to managers at their draft meetings.

**Next Meeting.** The next general meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 12. There is no general meeting scheduled for April. #

## MONDAY MORNING NEWS

### From L-1 and L-7 Commissioner Henry Low

The two 70+ leagues, League One and League Seven (L-1 and L-7) had their drafts on Feb. 18. L-1 drafted 92 players on seven teams -- 13 players per team plus one, and Sherrill Morton, who has played in L-3 for several years, will be the first woman, at least in recent years, to play in L-1. L-7, our new 70+ league, drafted 52 players on four teams for 13 players per team. Our season will begin March 17 with two weeks of practice games at Howe Park. Our schedule had to be altered somewhat because we were not certain that a third field required this year for L-1 would be available. So, L-1 and L-7 will use only two fields until the third field is ready for play, then we will revert to our regular game schedule. On March 17, L-1 was set to play two games at 9 a.m. and noon, with L-7 playing games at 10:30.

. On Monday, March 10, L-1 managers, club President Tom Sansone and I met with L-1 umpires to go over our L-1 Specific Rules in preparation for the new season. There were some revisions, additions and deletions, some related to the new L-7. So, it seemed wise to bring the umpires up to speed on the changes before they are published in the club’s new playing rules book or posted on the club web site. #

# SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

**IRON MAN MCMAHON SET FOR NEW KNEE.** Bill McMahon, who retired last year so he could concentrate even more on senior softball (ha, ha), says he's getting a new left knee as early as mid-April and will miss the 2014 Golden Seniors season.

Bill, 65, said he had surgery on the knee about 10 years ago and then gave up playing indoor-outdoor soccer, soccer refereeing and jogging. But he played well over 200 softball games a year, rivaling Dave Vargo for top Golden Seniors Iron Man status.

For years, Bill has played in as many as five GSSCS leagues, plus a Thursday doubleheader league and traveling tourney teams. He was playing 12 games during tournament weeks, not counting the games he played in night GSSCS leagues as a substitute for short-handed teams before reporting to work at the Post Office (graveyard shift). He found that his knee really started hurting (bone spurs, no miniscus left in the joint) from heavy running in a Hawaii tourney. He also played with the Islanders in Florida to start the year and had a cortisone shot. He must wait at least three months after the injection to have the knee surgery.

Bill can play with pain, as many may recall when he came back from a torn bicep muscle. He might have missed two or three weeks that season, if memory serves.

Now he says he is opting for knee surgery because he no longer wants to resemble a "one-legged kangaroo hopping from base to base." Join me in wishing a great teammate God-speed on his recovery.-- Ron Roach. #

## REMEMBER WHEN ...

Twenty-nine years ago, in 1985, Club President Fred Rainey helped present a Golden Seniors check for \$1,500 to the Greater Sacramento Softball Association to support construction of the Sacramento Softball Complex at Watt and Hwy 80.

Dick LeBeau (.579) edged John Wade (.574) for the Tuesday night batting title. Norm Cady and Guy Warren tied at .569 for the Wednesday night league top average. The Tuesday Day league had three players above .600 (Pete Mikacich .639, Joe Soares .632, and Harold Seifer .623) (One wonders whether the official scoring was a tad tighter on base hits in those days as no one could reach the .700 plateau in that year. Maybe there were better fielders? Crummy bats? All of the above?)

Membership in the club continued to grow, to 321, and there was a capacity crowd for the annual dinner-dance.

Club tournament teams included the Rookies #1, which was among the best 50-55 teams in California, winning 29 of 39 games. Bob Lau manage the team and its leading hitters were brothers John Blackwell (.667) and Norm Blackwell (.619).

*Source: Golden Seniors history, Vol. II, five years through 1988. #*

## **GOLDEN SENIORS AWARD OF MERIT RECIPIENTS**

Twenty-eight recipients since 1991:

2013: John Mizerak, Arnold Wilkerson

2012: Trudy Smartt, Ron Roach

2011: Henry Low, Tom Sansone

2010: Bob Havrilla

2009: Dave Vargo

2008: Dick Seward

2007: James Powell Sr., Susan Tucker

2006: Henry Fontes

2005: Ed Campini, Doug McCreary

2004: Foster Maxwell

2003: Jim Lortz

2002: Ken Wollenberg

2000: Ernie Kidwell

1998: Lou Coppola, George Hodsdon

1997: Benny Benson

1995: Dante Ciardella, Bill Sullivan

1994: Ralph Congdon, Daryl Cook

1993: Ken Dumont, Jack Pressley

1991: Bill Turner

#

## ***SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES***

### **THE GLOVEMAN GIVES OLD, WORN FIELDING GLOVES NEW LIFE**

Howard Shaw is the "Glovesman" for new lacing, reconditioning, cleaning and service at reasonable pricing. Howard can also help break in a new glove. Give him a call at 421-6643. His cell is 996-9490. #

## **SAFETY REPORT**

### **EIGHT COMPLETE CPR/AED TRAINING**

*From Safety Coordinator J.C. Terry*

Ten members or umpires completed Red Cross CPR/AED/First Aid training in February, with certification good through 2016. Newly certified or recertified are Bill Green, J.C. Terry, Curtis Holcomb, Cloicew Wade, Tom Bussey, Dave Tanner, Hector Gonzales, Paul Rogers, Jose Moreno, and Jerry McKaughan.

The club pays for the training, a \$72 value, and Umpire-in-Chief Tom Bussey encourages all umpires to gain and maintain certification. Actions by trained "red hats" and umpires have been credited with saving lives on and off the ball fields.

Terry has compiled a list of all currently certified members that will be in a later issue of the Dugout Chatter.

For more information, contact Terry at 916 505-2570. #

# **GOLDEN SENIORS SPONSORS FOR 2014**

(Paid sponsors as of February 2014)

**AMERICAN MEDEQUIP, LLC**

**ARNOLD PROPERTIES**

**AVALON HEARING AID CENTER, INC. (TEAM 1)**

**AVALON HEARING AID CENTER, INC. (TEAM 2)**

**BECKS, IN MEMORY OF BILL AND SHIRLEY BECK**

**BERTOLUCCI BODY & FENDER SHOP, INC.**

**C&C PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES**

**CAPITOL BARRICADE**

**EG THREADS**

**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)**

**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)**

**EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE**

**GSSA (GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSN.)**

**HARPER PROPERTIES**

**JERRY JODICE, IN MEMORY OF**

**JOLLY ROGERS**

**SACRAMENTO CATHOLIC FAMILIES -- GEORGE L. KLUMPP CHAPEL  
OF FLOWERS**

**LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE, INC.**

**L&S SURVEYS**

**MARK E. WHITE, DDS**

**MERRILL BOOKKEEPING AND INCOME TAX (Ray Merrill)**

**R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE/APPRAISAL**

**\*R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE/APPRAISAL (TEAM 2)**

**OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.**

**RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)**

**RAPID SOLUTIONS**

**REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE**

**SAM'S HOF BRAU**

**SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS**

**SILVER CATS**

**SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS**

**TANNER AND ASSOCIATES**

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

**VFW POST 67**

**RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS**

**\*YANCEY COMPANY**

\* -- New Sponsor for 2014

## **LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS -- 2014**

Club Commissioner Curtis Holcomb has appointed the following league commissioners:

**L-1 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst. Dick Reisinger Sr.**

**L-2 Dave Vargo 689-7061**

**L-3 Mel Tennyson 838-6811**

**L-4 Russ Barnes 332-2832**

**L-5 Allen Riker 873-3779**

**L-6 Dave Vargo 689-7061**

**L-7 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst. Bob Annecone**

**#**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2014**

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

1st Vice President **Dave Vargo** ...  
689-7061 (Responsible for team  
sponsorships.)

2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...  
441-4144 (Responsible for team  
uniforms and equipment.)

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:** Dave  
Tanner 216-1941

**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

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