
DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) CLUB HOTLINE: 491-1721

CLUB SCRAMBLES FOR SUBSTITUTE FIELDS

With high school softball tournaments taking over the Sacramento Softball Complex for two weeks in May, directors of the Golden Seniors Softball Club scrambled to find substitute diamonds for as many leagues as possible.

L2 and L6, which normally play Tuesday mornings at the Complex, moved games of May 12 and 19 to Bartholomew Park in Elk Grove. L1, L7 and L8, which play at Howe Park, were not affected by the high school softball tourneys.

However, Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis, despite an exhaustive search, was unable to find suitable alternative sites for the three night leagues.

In the past, the Complex has been taken over for high school softball but this is the first time at the Complex that the CIF tournament has affected two weeks of Golden Seniors games. L2 and L6 have byes on May 26 to avoid a conflict with the SSUSA tournament in Reno.

General meeting news from May 11, as noted by Club Secretary Dave Vargo:

Younger Players. There was discussion about a potential By-Laws change to reduce the age requirement for one or more night leagues. The intent would be to draw players in their 40s who are no longer able to compete with young adults in 18-and-over recreational league settings. One idea was to reduce the age for one night league, possibly Wednesday night L4, to 40 for men (instead of 50) and possibly 35 for women

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 7 P.M. MONDAY, JULY 13 AT THE VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BOULEVARD.

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Sunshine & Health: Rest in Peace: Darrel McRorie, Ray Soden. Bill Virgen, Jerry Moody, Jeffery Nielsen. Dante Ciardella breaks hip.

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(presently 45) and establish a ladder/stair-step style age progression of the three night leagues.

Mel Tennyson and Russ Barnes, night league commissioners at the meeting, were asked to begin discussions with potentially affected night leaguers.

Sponsors. Club 1st Vice President Jon Ellison reported 41 pledged sponsorships, with only two of them yet to pay.

Equipment and Uniforms. Club 2nd VP Chuck Knutson reported that the less-expensive (by \$1 a ball) Trump Stote synthetic balls appear to be working as well as the Evil balls they are replacing. As Knutson noted earlier, the Stote balls should resist abrasion better and are nearly equal in performance to the leather-covered Evil.

Knutson said new sponsors' jerseys are RDR Financial Services, Firefighters Local 522, Wenelli's Pizza, and Photo Finish. Replacement jerseys, under the program that calls for old shirts to be replaced every five or six years, were ordered for these sponsors: Overhead Door, Avalon Hearing Aid Centers, R.H. Nielsen Real Estate and Appraisal, and L&S Surveys #2. One sponsor (Nielsen) agreed to pay extra for more expensive Cobblestone jerseys instead of the usual Kamazu shirts.

Next year, Knutson said the club projects the need to replace as many as 14 sets of uniform jerseys; seven are prepaid and in stock but jersey costs are rising by 9% annually, so a budget increase may be needed.

Extra medium-size bucket hats and visors have been purchased and are available for distribution. Players should ask their team manager if they want one.

One of the three new face masks for pitchers who forget to bring their own was missing at the Complex. It has a GSSCS label on it. Members are asked to help locate it. After use, the masks are to be sprayed with disinfectant and returned to the storage bin.

New Rule Books. Club Commissioner Jerry Nevis said the club has a limited supply of hard copy rule books for officials and those without internet access. The Rule Books have been posted on the club web site, www.gsscs.org.

Web Site. L2 player Marti Ikehara continues to update contact lists on the web site. Mark Holgerson, a multi-league player, has expressed interest in helping to put statistical information, such as standings, batting stats, survey results, etc., on the web site. #

2015 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

L1 Henry Low; Asst. Dick Reisinger Sr.

L2 & L6 Myron Dahl and Bob Smartt (co-commissioners)

L3 Mel Tennyson

L4 Russ Barnes

L5 Bob Ellison

L7 Jim Stinson

L8 Cloicic Wade

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: DARREL McRORIE, RAY SODEN, BILL VIRGEN, JERRY MOODY, JEFFERY NIELSEN; CIARDELLA BREAKS HIP; KOCUNIC RECOVERING FROM SKULL FRACTURES

Four longtime Golden Seniors ballplayers have passed away this spring -- **Darrel McRorie, Ray Soden, William "Bill" Virgen and Jerry Moody.**

Darrel McRorie was 75 when he passed away on March 26. He joined the club in 1991 and qualified as a life member in 2014, when he played in three leagues. Before the 2015 drafts, George Hodsdon said Darrel phoned from his hospital bed to make sure that any manager who drafted him knew that he would not be available to play for awhile.

Darrel, an excellent third-baseman and hitter to all fields, played in a night league at the age of 73, against much younger players.. Over the years he played in virtually all leagues offered by the Golden Seniors. He also was a talented tournament player, drawing on skills honed as an all-conference baseball player for Sacramento State. He also taught and coached in high school and, as a Navy officer, served two combat tours in Vietnam.

Ray Soden, 87, passed away on March 31. He joined the club in 1985 and played most recently in the new 75-and-over league. He was a first-baseman known for his consistent hitting. He also was a club "Red Hat" -- signifying he was certified by the Red Cross under the club's program to train members to administer CPR and operate the club's defibrillator.

Ray and his wife, Sharon, were getting ready to attend church choir practice when he said he did not feel well and would take a nap. He died in his sleep.

William "Bill" Virgen lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on April 24. He was 76. The veteran Golden Senior was a member of the Mexican-American Baseball Hall of Fame and a champion horseshoe competitor. He was a member of the Golden Seniors for many years, playing off and on, and continued playing senior softball until October 2014.

Jerry Moody passed away, a victim of pancreatic cancer diagnosed only six weeks earlier. He was 78. He joined the Golden Seniors in 2006 after his retirement as an Arkansas state trooper and move to Sacramento with his wife. Moody pitched the first game of 2015 season in a Thursday morning league, and died about two weeks ago, George Hodsdon said on May 15. Jerry served as an assistant manager in L1 for a number of years.

The club sent condolences to Bob Nielsen, whose son **Jeffrey Nielsen**, 46, passed away on March 31.

Life Member **Dante Ciardella**, 86, fell and suffered a broken hip in April. He reported that he had surgery and a new socket was installed. #

KOCUNIK IS RECOVERING FROM INJURIES SUFFERED IN BATTING PRACTICE; HOPEFUL TO PLAY IN JUNE

Resilience -- thy name is **Jack Kocunik**. His positive attitude is the epitome of a "gamer."

The 66-year-old pitcher-outfielder was struck hard, near his left temple, by a line-drive on April 10 while pitching batting practice to his tournament team, the Sacramento Islanders. He suffered a concussion as well as two skull fractures and two fractures of orbital bone around his left eye.

"Every day is a little better," he said over the phone on May 15. "If I feel good toward the end of the month, I will start playing the beginning of June." His doctor, he said, responded to his comeback plan with advice to "be careful and be safe."

About 70 current-year teammates (and countless former teammates from his multi-league GSSCS over the years) will be celebrating his return to four teams in the Golden Seniors, plus the Islanders tournament team. (His GSSCS teams are in the two 60-and-over teams playing Tuesday mornings, a team in L3 Tuesday nights and a team in L4 Wednesday nights.) Jack also has managed teams over the years, including a number of league champions.

Kocunik said his doctor told him it would take five to six weeks, from April 10 to early June. He said he will be buying a new protective mask, one that comes attached to a helmet. It is similar to one belonging to Club Vice President Chuck Knutson. Another Islanders' pitcher uses one.

Jack was pitching hitting practice without a mask but using a screen for protection when the ball came back off the bat of a powerful Islander player. "It was just one of those dumb, stupid accidents. I don't know why I didn't get behind the screen. It was only my second pitch of batting practice." Jack also believes under normal conditions he would have caught the ball, but when tossing BP he usually has one or more balls in his glove hand, so he couldn't react.

This is the most serious injury Jack has had playing softball, but he added he missed more than three months three years ago with a broken foot suffered sliding into second base in an Islanders tournament game.

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NEWS ON OVER-70 TEAMS PLAYING AT HOWE PARK

From Henry Low

League One (L1) began their season with practice games on March 16 and March 23. The first round of head-to-head play (six teams) began on March 30 and was completed on April 27. The first round ended in a three-way tie between Wenelli's Pizza, coached by Ernie Shaffer; Nielsen Real Estate, coached by Norm Blackwell, and L&S Surveys, coached by Benny Benson. The tie was broken using the criteria in Rule 4.5 with the Nielsen team being declared the winner of Round #1 by a run differential of one run. The last games of the first round were very significant because the three 3-1 teams were playing the three 1-3 teams and the run differentials in those games determined the round winner. Wenelli's and L&S won their games by a single run, but Nielsen won their game by 10 runs -- just enough to win the run differential tie breaker by a single run. L1 plays the early games on Mondays.

League Seven (L7) with four teams began their season on March 16. After nine weeks Overhead Door (Norm Blackwell) was on top with a 8-1 record followed by Jolly Rogers (Tom Watwood) at 4.5-4.5, Avalon Hearing (Al Tirapelli) at 3.5-5.5 and Bertelucci's (Cloicec Wade) at 2-7. Jolly Rogers is scoring 14 runs per game, but Overhead Door is only giving up 7 runs per game which accounts for the differences in the won/loss records. L7 plays the late games on Mondays.

League Eight (L8) with five teams and a bye for one team each week began their season on March 17. Having had one rainout and the bye weeks, the standings look a little weird at times. Currently, Nielsen was on top with a 5-2 record followed by American MedEquip and Arnold Properties a half game back at 4-2, Merrill Bookkeeping at 3-3 and L&S Surveys at 0-7. L8 plays their games on Tuesday mornings on Field #1 at Howe Park. #

LEAGUE STANDINGS AND BATTING LEADERS (REPORT FROM CHIEF SCOREKEEPER COLETTE BARNES)

Through the first third of the regular season, there were no undefeated teams in the night leagues or the two 60-and-over Tuesday leagues. Only one team, John Brendle, leading L5 at 7-1, had only one loss. There were three players hitting .900 or better, including Nick Martin's astounding .955.

In stats maintained by Colette Barnes, chief scorekeeper, the top batter at this stage of the season, L3's Martin, also had five homers, four of them clearing the fence. Nick, 52, is in his first year as a Golden Senior player.

Jeff Luna (.933) was leading L4. He is 52 and in his second year with the Golden Seniors. Chris Aguiar has slugged five homers over the fence in the Wednesday night league. In L6, Steve Schuler was hitting .900.

L2 Tuesday Day (as of May 12)

Sam's Hofbrau 4 - 2 - 1
VFW & Yancey Co 4 - 3
Sports Leisure 3 - 2 - 2
Avalon Hearing 3 - 3 - 1
Photo Finish 1 - 6

Batting Average: John Shintaku .885, Ray Lucas .864, Gus Niklas & Joe Cors .857

Slugging Average: Hal Johnson 1.375, Ray Lucas 1.364, John Shintaku 1.346

Home Runs (Over Fence): Bruce Gilmore 1

In The Park Home Runs: Mick Tursky & John Shintaku 2; Mike Mayer, Bob Smartt, Hal Johnson & Terry Hennessy 1 each

L6 Tuesday Day

Jerry Jodice 5 - 2
E & G Threads 4 - 2 - 1
Mark E White DDS 3 - 3 - 1
GSSA 3 - 4
C & C Plumbing 3 - 4
Livingston Concrete 2 - 5

Batting Average: Steve Schuler .900, Pete Ward .875, Ken Taylor .842

Slugging Average: Steve Schuler 1.500, Hal Johnson 1.200, Pete Ward 1.167

Home Runs (OTF): none

In The Park Home Runs: Ernie Boston 2;
Hal Johnson, Jay Aquas & Pete Ward 1 each

L3 Tuesday Night as of May 5

Espanol 5 - 2
Rapid Solution & Bill Hill 4 - 3
Tanner and Associates & Geremia 3 - 4
Silver Cats 2 - 5

Batting Average: Nick Martin .955, Larry Eisberry .864, Felix Duncan & Jim Moore .840

Slugging Average: Nick Martin 2.091, Larry Eisberry 1.636, Chris Oliver 1.480

Home Runs (OTF): Nick Martin 4

In the Park Home Runs: Nick Martin 1

L4 Wednesday Night as of May 6

Elk Grove Lock & Safe 7 - 2
RDR Financial 7 - 3
Ryan Wilgus DDS 5 - 4
Reinwald Health Ins 4 - 6
Fire Fighters 1 - 9

Batting Average: Jeff Luna .933, Rick Cady .865, Bill Christian .833

Slugging Average: Jeff Luna 1.833, Walt Strickland 1.552, Chris Aguiar 1.419

Home Runs (OTF): Chris Aguiar 5, Walt Strickland & Chris Oliver 2 each, Jeff Luna 1

In the Park Home Runs: Jeff Luna 3, Walt Strickland, Dick Reisinger & Alfonso Ochoa 2 each

L5 Thursday Night as of May 7th

John Brendle 7 - 1
Reinwald Health Ins 5 - 3
Tri-C Machine 4 - 4
Espanol & Bill Hill 3 - 5
RAMBIT 2 - 6

Batting Average: Mel Tennyson .867, Shawn Rogers .862, Chris Aguiar .857

Slugging Average: Lyman Rose 1.448, Ettore Minor 1.435, Gerome Gibson 1.385

Home Runs (OTF): Chris Aguiar & Gerome Gibson 4, Mike Flolo & Lyman Rose 2 each

In the Park Home Runs: Sam Hernandez 2, five players with 1 each

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SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Sponsors Committed for
2015 as of March 9:

AMERICAN MEDIQUIP, LLC
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.
BILL HILL REPLACEMENT
WINDOWS
BILL HILL ROOFING &
VINYL SIDING
C&C PLUMBING AND
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES
EG THREADS
ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)
ESPANOL ITALIAN
RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)
GEREMIA POOLS
GSSA (GREATER
SACRAMENTO
SOFTBALL ASSN.)
HARPER PROPERTIES
JERRY JODICE, IN
MEMORY OF
JOLLY ROGERS
L&S SURVEYS
L&S SURVEYS #2
MARK E. WHITE, DDS
MERRILL BOOKKEEPING
AND INCOME TAX (Ray
Merrill)
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R.H. NIELSEN REAL
ESTATE/APPRaisal
(TEAM 2)

OVERHEAD DOOR
COMPANY OF
SACRAMENTO, INC.
RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)
*RDR FINANCIAL
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DENTAL INSURANCE
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FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 522
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SPORTS LEISURE
VACATIONS
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TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF
AUBURN, INC.
VFW POST 67
*WENELLI'S PIZZA
RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS
YANCEY COMPANY
* = New sponsor in 2015

For information on how to
become a sponsor for 2016
or take advantage of two-
year sponsorship terms,
contact Jon Ellison, first
vice president, at 880-0202.

***THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL
BE PUBLISHED AFTER THE JULY 13
GENERAL MEETING.***

***WATCH FOR CLUB PRESIDENT TOM
SANSONE'S EMAIL "BLASTS" FOR
IMPORTANT INFORMATION.***

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

RIVERCATS. Go any day. Parking is free at Raley Field with Lou Coppola's flexible exchange tickets. \$21.50 per seat. Section 116, Row 15, third-base side behind dugout of Giants' AAA farm team dugout. Call Lou (444-6138) for details. Tickets are good any date in 2015. "The beauty of these tickets is they can be exchanged for games before or after the dates on the tickets for seats in the same section," says Lou.

GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE. Next meetings are July 13, Aug. 10.

CLARIFICATION. To clarify the baserunning rule described in the March Dugout Chatter, here is Rule 2.2: (A) Batter running toward first base: Once reaching the halfway point between home and first, the batter must remain in foul territory until touching first base. Penalty: Batter is OUT for interference if there is a play and the ball passes first ahead of the batter. (B) Double first base: Defensive players must touch the white section of the base which is in fair territory. Penalty: If, in the umpire's judgment, the defensive player obstructs the batter/runner by touching the orange bag, the runner will be called SAFE. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2014-2015

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654
1st Vice President **Jon Ellison** ...
880-0202 (Responsible for team
sponsorships.)
2nd Vice President **Chuck Knutson** ...
524-9763 (Responsible for uniforms and
equipment.)
Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308
Secretary **Dave Vargo** ... 689-7061
Player Agent **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941
(Responsible for player applications,
player substitutes, waiting lists.)
Club Commissioner **Jerry Nevis** ...
683-3232 (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: Dave
Tanner 216-1941

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)