
DUGOUT CHATTER

**NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF
SACRAMENTO — ELECTRONIC EDITION — SEPT-OCT 2016**

EIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES: SLUGFESTS, COMEBACKS AND FAMILIAR FACES AMONG 16 PLAYOFF TEAMS

Forty-three runs in a game decided by one run, comebacks in the final innings, stout defensive play and familiar faces in the winner's circle. Those were among the story lines from the 2016 Golden Seniors Softball Club's eight league championship games in September. Among noteworthy exploits: Jack Kocunik played on three championship teams (L3, L2, L6). The potent combination of Norm Blackwell Sr. and Bob Nielsen won their seventh and eighth league titles (L1 and L8) over the years. Thursday night player Bryan Patrick drove in nine runs in one game.

NIGHT LEAGUES

TUESDAY NIGHT L3 — TRI-C MACHINE 15, AVALON 14. Frank Lamar's Tri-C Machine added a 3-0 playoffs record to a regular-season 16-1 mark by edging Avalon Hearing in the Sept. 13 finale. Kocunik's fourth hit of the game drove home the winning run after Caroline Saenz and Christopher Peterson started the rally with base hits. Chris Oliver also had four hits for the winners. Lamar, who was limited to two games this season due to hip surgery, said Kocunik's pitching record for the season and playoffs was an amazing 17-0. (Funny thing, Jack recalls a wipe-out defeat in the first game of the season, and wondering whether Tri-C would win even one game all year. Go figure: 19 straight victories!)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT L4 — TRI-C MACHINE 24, REINWALD INSURANCE 13. Managed by Mel Tennyson, Tri-C Machine had a powerful team that dominated the regular season. In the championship game, Bill Greene and Don Jackson both went 5 for 5 at the plate. Each drove in five runs. Manager Robert Reinwald's team was led by Marcus Kirkland and Doug Gedestad, each going 3x4. (Two Tri-C Machine-sponsored teams, in L3 and L4, combined for a regular season won-loss record of 32-2. If any two teams with the same sponsor had more success over the more than three decades of Golden Senior play, the editor of the Dugout Chatter would like to hear about it.) *See Page 2.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: Game and Picnic Photos. Sunshine & Health Report: Rest in Peace Don Lawson, Joanne Pegos. Board Keeps Lower Dues.

***NEXT GENERAL MEETING:
JANUARY 9, 2017***

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES, FROM PAGE 1**THURSDAY NIGHT L5 — RAPID SOLUTIONS 12, RAMBIT INC. 10 IN THE “IF” FINALE AFTER RAMBIT WON 22-13 TO FORCE THE SECOND GAME IN THE DOUBLE-ELIMINATION FORMAT.**

In the first game, Rambit's Bryan Patrick hit a grand-slam homer in a 4x5 game in which he also had two doubles and a triple and drove home nine runs. Chris Oliver went 5x5. In the finale, top-seeded Rapid Solutions, managed by Andy Ybarra, jumped ahead 11-4 by the fourth inning. The open inning began with the Gary Schaaf-managed Rambit team down by three runs. Oliver opened the inning with a single, moved to second on a walk to Patrick, before Chris Aguiar drove home Oliver with a long base hit. The next three batters were retired, stranding the tying runs on the bases. In the finale, Alfonso Ochoa drove in three runs for Rapid Solutions with two hits, including a homer, and Anthony Maze had two hits to plate two runs. Rambit's Emilio Lobato had a pair of doubles among three hits.

DAY LEAGUES

L1 MONDAY MORNINGS — NIELSEN REAL ESTATE 10, WENELLI'S PIZZA 5. This was the eighth league championship for combination of Bob Nielsen and manager Norm Blackwell Sr., including two titles at the Sept. 17 picnic. Al Waller (3x3), Don Shank (2x3) and Bret Wangan (2x3) led the winners while Guy Anderson was 3x3 for the Ernie Shaffer-managed Wenelli's team.

L2 TUESDAY MORNINGS — SPORTS LEISURE 22, VFW 21. In a 32-run slugfest, fourth-seed Sports Leisure, managed by Tom Sansone, edged Manager Ray Lucas's third-seeded VFW Post 67. VFW nearly pulled it out but towering flies to right field, first a sacrifice fly by Bill Greene to make it 22-21, followed by another deep fly off the bat of Jack Wabinga. The difference-maker: Jack Kocunik's clutch catches of both long balls. Top hitters for Sports Leisure: Joe Cors, Bud DeSouza and Dan Roncelli were 4x5. Don Jackson's three hits included a home run. VFW was led by Bruce Gilmore and Greene, both 4x4 with a combined nine RBI, and Pete Ward 3x5.

L6 TUESDAY MORNINGS — JERRY JODICE 8, ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT 7.

Trailing 7-4 in the bottom of the open inning, Jodice used hits by Joe Wender, Jack Kocunik, Dan Sumpter and Jay Aguas to plate two runs, and the final two scored on errors, including a high throw to the plate. Manager Bob Smartt's victorious team was led by Smartt's three hits, while Don Jackson and Kerry Gates both had two hits for Espanol, managed by Bill Greene.

L7 MONDAY MORNINGS — BERTOLUCCI 10, JOLLY ROGERS 9. Tied at 9 after six innings, Jolly Rogers, managed by Cloicec Wade, failed to score, then Bertolucci Body & Fender, managed by Jerry Nevis, scored on Ken Taylor's two-out double that drove home Pat Morrison. Jack Tibbett's three hits led the winners, who also had two hits each from Jim Mays and Taylor. Guy Anderson (3x4) and Don Shank (2x3) led Jolly Rogers.

L8 TUESDAY MORNINGS — NIELSEN REAL ESTATE 12, L&S SURVEYS 8. This was league championship victory No. 8 for the team led by Nielsen and Blackwell Sr. Will Nishina and Eugene Malone paced Nielsen, each hitting two singles and a double, and Dick Kyle chipped in with three singles. L&S was managed by Bill Hooper.

(Thanks to scorekeepers Colette Barnes and Dawn Gerlach for information.) #

NEW BOARD MAINTAINS LOWER LEAGUE FEES

The club's Board of Directors, meeting Oct. 3, determined to continue the same level of league fees, reduced by \$5 for 2016, for at least one more year. The board has been striving to spend down reserves while keeping a prudent surplus.

Elected in August, the club's board was sworn in at the Sept. 17 picnic, and scheduled board meetings in October to work on the 2017 budget.

At the Sept. 17 general meeting, held in conjunction with the season-ending picnic, President Bill Hill said issues to be considered at the first meeting of 2017 in January include whether to expand to nine teams by embracing a 75-and-over league that has been playing on Thursdays at Carmichael Park. Larry Campbell, leader of the league which also includes younger women (such as daughters of players), has been lobbying the board to include the league.

Hill and other board members recognize the need to help provide more opportunity for older players than the club's Monday and Tuesday morning leagues for players 70 or 75 and older. It also is noted that many of the Thursday players are current or former Golden Seniors.

The board also will deal with a proposal to allow higher-performance bats in games at Howe Park involving L7, which 70-and-older players. A survey of the Monday players was undertaken this summer that advocates said was supportive of the use of "hotter" bats. The board decided to conduct another survey at the Sept. 17 picnic and hold further discussions at the next general meeting in January.

Chuck Knutson, outgoing 2nd vice president, administered the oath of office to those re-elected or elected in August: President Hill, 1st VP Rocky Wilkerson, 2nd VP Bob Smartt, Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison, Player Agent Dave Tanner, and Treasurer Don Wall. Secretary Deanna Sesso was re-elected but could not attend the picnic. She was to be sworn in at a later date.

The picnic was considered a success, thanks to work from volunteers who were led by Bob and Trudy Smartt, Hill, and others, including Bill Greene who set up the sound system and played music. The beef and chicken BBQ was well-received. The crowd also participated in a raffle. #

LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2016

Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison has appointed the following league commissioners for 2016: L1 Henry Low 391-3938, L2 Bob Smartt 973-8269, L3 Mel Tennyson, L4 Brian Pearson 947-4384, L5 Bobby Ellison (acting) 212-7498, L6 Ray Lucas 718-3348, L7 Jim Stinson 397-3012, L8 Cloicec Wade 393-5809. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH

REST IN PEACE: DON LAWSON, JOANNE PEGOS

Life Member **Don Lawson** passed away on Aug. 18, four days after his 86th birthday. Don joined the club in 1993.

Joanne Marie Pegos, wife of Life Member Steve Pegos, passed away on Sept. 9. They were married 55 years. Joanne, 78, was being treated for a rare form of cancer of the lower intestine.

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NEW BOARD IS SWORN IN AT CLUB SEASON-ENDING PICNIC SEPT. 17: (L-R) PLAYER AGENT DAVE TANNER, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT BOB SMARTT, PRESIDENT BILL HILL, CLUB COMMISSIONER BOB ELLISON, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ROCKY WILKERSON, AND TREASURER DON WALL. SECRETARY DEANNA SESSO IS NOT PICTURED. #

HILL AND SHAFFER ARE HONORED WITH AWARDS OF MERIT

The Golden Seniors Softball Club has bestowed the Award of Merit to two deserving members who have given so much of their time and energy to improve the club over the years. The surprise recipients for 2016, announced at the Sept. 17 picnic, are Bill Hill and Ernie Shaffer.

They were selected from nominees by a committee of former award recipients for bringing their talents to help the club function and grow. They are not selected because they are superior players, but because they have been superior club members.

Hill is in his second stint as president of the club and has worked tirelessly to recruit players and maintain viable leagues, particularly on Wednesday and Thursday nights. He has sponsored numerous teams and stepped up to maintain the picnic as well as serve as an effective volunteer leader of the club. He has said that he is a strong believer that the club belongs to the members and any decision must reflect what members desire.

Shaffer is a life member who has volunteered over the years and is considered by many to be a good example of a fair and respectful team leader. Ernie, who turned 80 this year, joined the club 30 years ago this coming January.



Ernie Shaffer (left) and Bill Hill received the Award of Merit for 2016

GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB – SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016



Above: Keith Arnold makes contact for Jerry Jodice in the L6 championship game.



(Left) Chuck Knutson (2nd VP) presented championship shirts to winners of games Sept. 17 at Howe Park.



Reggie Rogers, who played high school ball against former Cordova Coach Guy Anderson, umpired the L7 championship game. Reggie posed with coach before the game won by the Jolly Rogers, for whom Anderson played infield.

Gus Niklas strokes a solid hit for Sports Leisure Vacations, winner of the L2 championship game against VFW Post 67.





Sports Leisure's Bill Enos focuses on a pitch in the L2 title game (left) and Jack Wabinga is about to hit a long fly ball for VFW Post 67 in the same game.

Wabinga's hit ended the 22-21 game when it was caught by right-fielder Jack Kocunik.



DUGOUT CHATTER SEPT-OCT 2016



Jack Kocunik hits for Sports Leisure against VFW. Freddie Miller is behind the plate with George Lamb calling balls and strikes. Bob Nevis (below) is the hitter for Nielsen in L8 game.



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595-2941.

*THANKS FOR THE GREAT WORK OF CHIEF SCOREKEEPER COLETTE BARNES,
SCOREKEEPERS DAWN MARIE GERLACH AND VENUS GERLACH, AND THE
SPECIAL ASSIST BY RUSS BARNES WHO PUT THE COMPUTERIZED
SCOREKEEPING PROGRAM TOGETHER.*

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VFW POST 67 CONGRATULATES SPORTS LEISURE VACATION AFTER L2 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME.

JOE CORS HELPED WIN A TITLE FOR SPORTS LEISURE IN L2, BUT HIS ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT TEAM LOST TO JERRY JODICE, 8-7, IN L6 GAME.



Don Shank follows through with pitch for Jolly Rogers. Sponsor Bob Rogers is playing second base. They lost to top-seeded Bertolucci 10-9 in the L7 championship game.

Bill Greene (left) leans into a pitch for VFW Post 67.

DUGOUT CHATTER GSSCS – SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2016-17 -- President: **Bill Hill** ... 804-2243

First Vice President: **Rocky Wilkerson** .. 595-2541 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President: **Bob Smartt** ... 973-8269 (Responsible for team uniforms, balls.)

Treasurer: **Don Wall** ... 434-8308 Secretary: **Deanna Sesso** ... 955-8195 Player Agent:

Dave Tanner ... 216-1941 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.) Club Commissioner: **Bobby Ellison** ... 212-7498 (Responsible for enforcement of league rules, oversees league commissioners.) (916 Area Code unless otherwise noted)

TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso) 491-1721 for meeting news and field conditions.

Phone or Address Changes: Dave Tanner 216-1941

Player Applications: Dave Tanner 216-1941

ONLINE AT WWW.GSSCS.ORG

Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 973-8269

Rules: Bobby Ellison 212-7498

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 456-1500

Entertainment: Lou Coppola 444-6138

Safety: Glenn Cummings 276-9530

Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 422-2500
(coachrwr@comcast.net)

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