
DUGOUT CHATTER

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL
CLUB OF SACRAMENTO — MARCH-APRIL 2017**

DODGING RAIN STORMS, GOLDEN SENIORS LAUNCH 38TH SEASON; SCRAMBLE FOR NIGHT LEAGUE SIGNUPS

The 38th season of Golden Seniors Softball got under way in March with eight leagues getting in as many games as possible between storms that have buffeted the region.

The decision to start playing in March helped get in games before wet fields were deemed unplayable for some in early April. For example, L7 on Monday mornings got in three league games but March 27 and April 10 games were canceled.

Night leagues were still scrambling for signups, but, as usual, they were able to draft and play ball. Club directors, meanwhile, declared intent to have 2018 player renewal applications in the hands of players at their final regular-season games of 2017. The “younger” players in the night leagues seem to wait until the last minute to sign up, while the seasoned veterans of the club get their paperwork and fees submitted right away.

The club had a number of rule changes stemming from a Jan. 13 meeting organized by Club Commissioner Bobby Ellison at which all leagues were represented by at least two members on the Rules Committee. There were 12 current or former managers, five league commissioners, three current umpires, and three current board members on the committee: Bill Greene, Ken Taylor, Jerry Nevis, Ron Roach, Norm Blackwell Sr., Freddie Miller, Mike Emos, Cloicec Wade, John Brown, Bob Ellison, Bob Smartt, Deanna Sesso, Jim Stinson and Bob Cabelera. Rule changes were recommended to the Board of Directors.

Most of the rule changes deal with substitute players. The board approved a safety-oriented rule that allows substitute players to play any position, not just catcher or right field. Ellison said such a rule could impact a team’s regular catcher who is forced to play a more strenuous position and thus could be at greater risk of injury. The substitute must still bat at the bottom of the lineup and be limited to one-base hits, and runners can advance only one base, even if not forced. (See Page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE: Meeting News; Trained Golden Seniors Help Heart Attack Victim; Sunshine & Health: Rest in Peace — Tony Martini, Ted Bofinger, Jim Beckman

Next General Meeting: 7 p.m. MAY 8, VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard.



GENERAL MEETING NEWS (FROM PAGE 1)

Umpire Training. Chief Umpire Tom Bussey explained the club's umpire training program. New umpires have worked early games under the watchful eyes of veteran umpires, and must be deemed competent before they become permanent umpires.

Signups Lag. The club began play during the week of March 13-16 with 10 players on some night league teams. Ellison said it would take two or three weeks for signups to build larger rosters, and President Bill Hill reported March 25 that all leagues were full and more night league players were still signing up. Besides earlier availability of renewal applications, the club may consider incentives for those signing up before the end of the year.

Player Agent Dave Tanner reported that there were 121 non-playing members, mostly life members, who should be recognized as the "backbone of the club." He also said there were 88 people on the list of those who played in 2016 but did not renew for 2017. While league commissioners were calling these former players.

Tanner said as of March 13 there were 81 players in L1; 85 in L2; 60 in L3; 62 in L4; 62 in L5; 88 in L6; 50 in L7 and 58 in L8. The numbers include multi-league players.

New League Pondered. The club next year may consider forming a new league for 80-and-over players, Tanner said, which prompted applause from Norm Blackwell Sr.

Member Inquiry. Hill noted that he received letters from Eugene Malone, one urging the club's umpires to watch out for runners who endanger fielders. He also wanted to know if players could become scorekeepers (who are paid \$11 a game). Hill said they could apply but there is a current waiting list with several individuals and he did not foresee an opening in the near future.

Hot Bats. On the question of hot bats, Hill said there would be no mid-season change for L7 and a survey (by Dave Vargo) indicated that "a sizable number of 'no' voters would quit" L7 if the hot bats were allowed. The season has begun and players have decided to play based on existing bat standards, he said. The hot bats used in the night leagues and younger day leagues are not allowed in L1, L7 and L8. The board is considering inclusion of information on allowable bats on 2018 player applications so players could choose to sign up in a hot bat L7 or pick another league.

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SAFETY REPORT: NEWLY TRAINED GSSCS MEMBERS USE LIFE-SAVING SKILLS TO HELP STRICKEN FOLSOM TOURNEY PLAYER

Thanks to what seems to be textbook coordination of an emergency response, a senior softball tournament player is out of intensive care, recovering from a massive heart attack and ruptured aorta. The responders included his manager, a player from the opposing team, an umpire and a physician who happened to be coaching his son's baseball team.

Ken Kubisch of Redding, pitcher-rover for the NorCal Red Hawks, seemed an unlikely heart attack victim, appearing remarkably fit for someone in his 72nd year. His manager, Jaime Correa, said Ken is 5-foot-8, "skinny" and the fastest runner on his team.

On April 8, he collapsed during the Tournament Players Association game at Folsom's Lembi Park. He was unconscious. He had a ruptured aorta, the main blood supply to the heart. Dr. Dan Cortez, who rushed to the adjacent field upon hearing cries for medical help, said Kubisch's recovery was a "miracle" that can be attributed to CPR chest compressions that were "amazing" — and the timely use of a defibrillator. The Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is the "game changer" to improve the odds of surviving a major heart attack, the doctor said.

TPA President Bill Hill makes sure defibrillators are near fields used for TPA tournaments. Also, earlier that week, at a pre-tourney TPA managers' meeting, there was a defibrillator demonstration.

Hill also is president of the eight-league Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento, which has a policy of providing defibrillators at its league games at Howe Park and the Sacramento Softball Complex. The club sponsors Red Cross courses for members to learn how to perform cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and operate the battery-powered AED. Eleven Golden Seniors completed the six-hour course in March, including Chuck Knutson, an over-70 player, and Golden Seniors Chief Umpire Tom Bussey.

On April 8, Knutson was playing outfield for the Sacramento Islanders against the Red Hawks. He called for someone to call 9-1-1 and, with Correa helping, began CPR, with Knutson compressing the chest. Bussey went for the defib. The doctor from the adjacent field said he arrived to witness the CPR and advised as the AED was used to administer three shocks to the chest area. Ken was still gasping for breath as paramedics put him in an ambulance. (See Page 4)

GOLDEN SENIORS HELP HEART ATTACK VICTIM (FROM PAGE 3)

Days later, after Kubisch was reported to be out of intensive care at Mercy Hospital, and moved to his own room, Dr. Cortez received a smiling photo of Kubisch and his wife. “He looked great,” the doctor said in an April 13 phone call, remarking how fortunate it was that there were trained responders — with a defib — at the field.

There is only a 10% chance of survival from such a heart attack outside a hospital. Use of a defibrillator doubles the chance to 20%, he said.

Dr. Cortez said every team manager should have a defibrillator. It is such a “huge game changer.” The doctor praised the Golden Seniors’ emphasis on player safety and well-being as “wonderful.” The club offers members free Red Cross training in CPR and AED (defibrillator), and does not allow a Golden Senior game to begin without a fully-charged defib near the fields.

According to Correa, reached by phone on April 13, Kubisch was given an EKG that indicated there was no brain damage as a result of being unconscious.

“This is great news, a happy ending,” Knutson said. Hill said he was sure Ken would be running again.

The Golden Seniors over the years have financed CPR-AED classes for members who want the training. The cost to the club is \$75 per person to take the class. Club Safety Chairman Glenn Cummings arranges the classes.

The club this year purchased new defibrillators and restocked the red “crash carts” that must be positioned near fields for GSSCS league games at Howe Park and the Sacramento Softball Complex. Members interested in signing up for future Red Cross classes should contact Glenn at cummingsglenn@gmail.com or 916 276-9530.

Besides Knutson and Bussey, the newly Red Cross-certified Golden Seniors are John Long, Dave Tanner, Larry Elsberry, George Hodsdon, Al Tirapelli, Jack Warren, Bob Greeley, Lynn Baker and Linda Baker. #

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: MARTINI, BOFINGER, BECKMAN

Anthony “Tony” Martini, a longtime Golden Senior who was also a popular National Weather Service radar expert, passed away Feb. 26 from stroke complications. He was 78.

A photo with his March 5 obituary in the Sacramento Bee showed Tony wearing his Golden Seniors cap and jersey. About 40 former teammates and softball friends were at his Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial March 13 at St. John Evangelist Church in Carmichael.

Tony played softball until suffering a stroke about two years ago. He had joined the Golden Seniors when he turned 50 and, following his retirement in 1993 after 33 years with the NWS, he spent most of his retirement years playing ball and playing jazz guitar and mandolin.

Pioneer Golden Senior **Ted Bofinger** passed away in his sleep on April 1 at the age of 93. He joined the club in 1981 and played through 2001. The GSSCS life member was a big, tall first baseman. He played first base on the San Francisco City College and San Francisco State College baseball teams.

According to his obituary in the Sacramento Bee, Ted immigrated with his mother from Germany when he was just five years old, joining his father who had already come to the United States. Fifteen years later, he was among the U.S. soldiers who landed on Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944. After the war, he earned his law degree and became a federal administrative law judge. He also played hard ball with the Sacramento Men’s Senior Baseball League. In 2007, he was inducted into the SMSBL Hall of Fame.

The Thursday 75+ League at Carmichael Park and other softball friends mourn the passing of **Jim Beckman** of Placerville, who played on Bob Nielsen’s team. He died of cancer on March 22. He was buried in a family-only ceremony at the National Cemetery for Veterans in Dixon. A gathering to celebrate Jim’s life was held in April. #

SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

Carmichael Park 75+ Thursday League Report. On March 16, league honcho Larry Campbell wrote: The league began play March 2 and avoided rainouts for the first three weeks. The league has nine teams again this year and welcomed a new team of old (80+) geezers, mainly from the Placerville area. The league goal is to maintain eight equally balanced teams to play for enjoyment. So far, with new player adjustments, the scores are getting closer with some ties and near ties. Life is good when you can still play ball in your eighties. Let’s create an 80+ league!

Campbell credited the field conditioning work of Ron Smith getting games played when conditions elsewhere were unsuitable for games (i.e. Howe Park). However, even Smith’s handiwork wasn’t enough to keep the fields playable on April 13. Campbell also suggested that GSSCS Leagues 1 and 7 on Monday April 10, who couldn’t play due to muddy fields from rain on Saturday, might consider switching to Carmichael Park to play at least some games. #

NOTES FROM CLUB SECRETARY DEANNA SESSO, WHO ALSO OPERATES THE CLUB'S TELEPHONE HOTLINE. In the event of inclement weather or update on field conditions, please check the club's phone line (491-1721) after 7:30 a.m. on your respective day of play. During the spring months, Howe Park and Complex maintenance crews do not arrive to their facility until 7 a.m. and this will allow them time to walk the fields and make decisions appropriate for their park. The Golden Seniors Hot Line message will be updated as soon as information is received from the park's crews.

CLUB COMMISSIONER BOBBY ELLISON: OVERVIEW OF UPDATED RULES. Substitutes. To enable teams to play with a complement of 10 or 11 players, based on league, up to three (3) substitutes are allowed.

Substitutes may play any defensive position, bat last in the line-up and are limited to a single.

When a substitute player bats, all base runners may advance no more than (1) base, at their option, regardless if force situation or not.

The managers scheduled for the 1st game may prearrange for a league player substitute if LC confirms there are no waiting list players available.

Leagues may interchange substitutes provided LC confirms there are no waiting list players or substitutes available within that league and the league's age requirements are met.

Post Season Substitutes. Players on the league waiting list or team members of eliminated teams have first priority to substitute in post-season play. If none are available, members of other leagues may substitute provided league's age requirement are met. The LC or Club Commissioner must approve such substitute assignments, assuring the substitute(s) are rated lower than the missing team member(s).

Courtesy Runners. A player is limited to running once per inning and can be used as many times as needed during a game.

Headwear. Baseball/Bucket Hats or Visors are optional. If worn, they must be club-issued with the club's logo. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2016-17 -- President: **Bill Hill** 916 804-2243. 1st VP: **Rocky Wilkerson** 916 595-2541. 2nd VP: **Bob Smartt** 916 973-8269. Treasurer: **Don Wall** 916 434-8308 Secretary: **Deanna Sesso** 916 955-8195 Player Agent: **Dave Tanner** 916 216-1941. Club Commissioner: **Bobby Ellison** 916 212-7498.

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

Safety: Glenn Cummings 276-9530
Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 422-2500 (coachrwr@comcast.net)

Still getting your Dugout Chatter via the U.S. Mail? Most Golden Seniors have opted to see their Dugout Chatter online (www.gsscs.org), which saves the club hundreds of dollars in postage alone. Call Dave Tanner (916 216-1941) to insure that the club has your correct email address. Players with email addresses in club records will not be mailed a Dugout Chatter.

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