

# DUGOUT CHATTER

Golden Seniors Online: [www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org](http://www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org)

While still celebrating the close of the Golden Seniors Softball Club's 2018 season with playoff games and a picnic, club leaders on Sept. 15 began focusing on the club's 40th anniversary ahead.

Much of the discussion was on the plan to unveil the new club web site this fall while the Board of Directors outlined efforts to bolster the safety program and recruit more sponsors.

Under the leadership of Bob Kunnmann, a night-league player and manager with website experience, the new website will be maintained by members to keep information current, including schedules, standings and stats on a weekly basis.

The club is investing more than \$1,000 on the website project and is setting up an online payment system for members who want to pay their dues and league fees online. Zelle, PayPal and Venmo are being considered for the online payments. Player applications will be online to fill out and return online.

For members who lack access to the Internet, the Dugout Chatter will still be printed and mailed, but the print edition has limited space and cannot compare with the timely news and photos that can be viewed on the website.

President Bill Hill said the club is grateful to longtime web site manager Jamyn Jodice, whose late father served as club president and was a prime architect of the club's safety training program. Jamyn, while not a softball player, has been a terrific manager of the club's existing website that began under his father's leadership.

Hill also told the membership that the club must increase what players will pay (dues and league fees), to be determined by the board as it considers the 2019 budget. The cost to belong and play in the GSSCS will continue to be a bargain when compared to other clubs or leagues, he said.

First Vice President Rocky Wilkerson joined Hill in welcoming the club's newest sponsor, IMPaX Health ([www.impaxhealth.com](http://www.impaxhealth.com)), which markets Alkaline water and supplements, and had a booth at the picnic. Wilkerson said that without sponsorships, members would have to pay as much as \$30 more a year.

The revamped website will include more information on sponsors so members will be better able to find a product or service from a business that supports the club.

On the budget, Hill and Don Wall, club treasurer, noted that the club has been able to hold down membership costs while reducing the surplus to a prudent level for a nonprofit organization. That point has been reached, and the club needs to maintain sufficient funds to pay bills, mostly field rentals at the Sacramento Softball Complex and Howe Park.

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**Club Contacts, website:**

[www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org](http://www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org)

## GREATER WEB PRESENCE; ROBUST SAFETY PROGRAM (FROM P. 1)

New club Safety Coordinator Paul Rogers described an aggressive safety program. Rogers said he was already working to line up week-day and Saturday Red Cross classes where members can be certified in CPR and AED (defibrillator) life-saving techniques. Members interested in taking such a club-paid class — which includes how to respond to child emergencies — need to contact Rogers at 916 206-1605 (for details on the courses, when they will be available and how to sign up).

Members who complete the course, including recertification, are issued red hats so they are readily identifiable as Red Cross-certified responders in the event of emergencies. There have been a number of players who survived heart attacks with help from a red-hat teammate.

Second Vice President Bob Smartt thanked managers for collecting their team jerseys and turning them in so they can be inventoried and prepared for 2019. He also drew applause for the design off the club's 2018 league championship shirts. The new Stote balls also made their debut in the playoffs.

Much work has to be done in the designing of 2019 player applications, reported Player Agent Dave Tanner, and Club Commissioner Bob Ellison said he already is lining up league commissioners. All board members urge members to renew promptly to assure eligibility for player drafts based on lists in January.

Tanner told of one veteran player who didn't get his application in early enough to avoid being put on a wait list, costing him much of the 2018 season before being assigned to a team.

Club Secretary and Picnic Chair Deanna Sesso reported that 257 individuals received wrist bands for the picnic lunch. Ellison reported that the raffle raised funds to help provide a gratuity for those who served the lunch.

Kudos to Bill Greene, who set up the sound system and played background music. #



***Scorekeepers for playoffs: L-R Dawn Gerlach, Colette Barnes, Venus Gerlach.***

***Paul Rogers, new safety coordinator, outlined plans for more Red Cross training classes in 2019.***



## **GSSCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES CONCLUDE 2018 SEASON**

After 161 runs, lots of great hitting and defensive web gems, nine Golden Seniors Softball Club league champions were crowned in September. The playoffs capped the 2018 season that began in March and amounted to more than 200 games as 389 active players filled 577 roster spots on 43 teams.

The Sept. 15 Playoffs & Picnic finale at the Sacramento Softball Complex featured title games for the club's three night leagues and four of the six day leagues. The club's two "super seniors" leagues decided their championships earlier in the month. Results:

**L4 Wednesday Night.** In the only playoff requiring an extra inning, Reinwald Insurance defeated RDR 14-10. Tied 8-8, Manager Bob Reinwald's team tallied six times in the top of the eighth inning, and Manager Dick Reisinger's RDR Financial Services could score just two in the bottom of the last frame. Chris Aguilar's towering clout over the left-center fence, into the wind, accounted for one of Reinwald's runs.

**L5 Thursday Night.** Bill Hill's team outscored Larry's Plumbing, managed by Larry Dickerson, 14-8. Larry's team was led by Floyd Seaborn, who had one of only two fence-clearing blasts of the day (Aguilar's in L4 was the other). Ettore Minor also went 3x4 and scored three times.

**L3 Tuesday Night.** A second Bill Hill-sponsored team, this one managed by Auggie Johnson, edged Bob Kunnmann's La Rosa Sports 11-9. Big hitters in the game included Kunnmann and Curtis Williams, both 4x5.

**L2 Tuesday Day.** Photo Finish, managed by Mick Tursky, poured it on for a 22-7 triumph over Sports Leisure Vacations, managed by John Long. The winners were led by Keith Arnold, Doug Najima, Steve Mejia and Dennis Kelly who combined to go 14x14 in this game. Sports Leisure's top batters were Bob Fernandez, 4x4, and Marc Dube, 3x3.

**L6 Tuesday Day.** EG Threads starting pitcher Rich Bingham took a ball hit off his knee, struck by the game's first batter, stout relief pitching by Dan Getchel was key in a 12-10 victory over Memory of Jerry Jodice. Manager Bud Lefforge's team held on despite a spirited comeback attempt by Jodice, managed by Bob Smartt. Ken Taylor was 3x3 for Jodice while Keith Arnold was 4x4 and Tom Cordell was 3x3 for the Threads.

**L1 Monday Day.** Tanner and Associates, managed by Chuck Knutson, upset perennial power Nielsen Real Estate, 12-10. Perry O'Laughlin was Tanner's top hitter, 4x4. Managed by Norm Blackwell Sr., Nielsen was paced by Don Shank and Roland Stiarwalt, both 3x3. (See Page 3)

## CLUB LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS (FROM PAGE 3)

**L7 Monday Day.** Overhead Door, managed by Ron Roach, defended their 2017 championship by beating Harper Properties, 20-11. Pitcher Jack Kocunik held Freddie Miller's team in check. Overhead was led by Assistant Manager Chuck Knutson and Jerry Horton, both 4x4. Steve Lawrence and Trudy Smartt were 3x3. Harper's Lester Bennett was 4x4 with a pair of doubles.

Two GSSCS leagues on Tuesday mornings at Howe Park played earlier championship games at that venue:

**L8 (75+) Tuesday Day.** Champion Nielsen Real Estate edged Merrill 8-6 with a three-run rally in the top of the seventh, reported League Commissioner Cloice Wade.

**L9 (80+) Tuesday Day.** Jerry Nevis, commissioner of the club's newest league that features its most seasoned ballplayers, reported Show Biz defeated Memory of George Gross, 10-7. The deciding blow was Jerry's bases-loaded double in the top of the sixth.

**DOUBLING UP.** On Sept. 15, eight players were on two league championship teams: Jack Kocunik, Chuck Knutson, Guy Anderson and Jerry Horton, L1 and L7; Keith Arnold and Stephen Mejia, L2 and L6; Auggie Johnson, Sandy Johnson, and Rita Cobb, L3 and L4. Arnold was perfect with 8 hits in 8 at-bats for the day.

**KUDOS.** Thanks to head scorekeeper Colette Barnes and scorekeepers Dawn and Venus Gerlach, and Chief Umpire Tom Bussey and his crew: Gary Moreno, George Lamb, Richie McGlothen, Mike Immoos and John Brown. #



*Reinwald's Sandy Johnson watches her well-struck fly ball to left field (left) and RDR pitcher Rick Cady prepares to pitch in the L4 championship game, won by Reinwald 14-10 in eight innings.*

## WALL, NIELSEN AND SESSO HONORED WITH AWARD OF MERIT

Don Wall, Bob Nielsen and Deanna Sesso were honored with the club's 2018 Award of Merit, bestowed at the Sept. 15 Playoffs-Picnic Saturday at the Sacramento Softball Complex.

Presenter Bob Smartt noted that Wall, a life member who joined the club in 2000, has served eight years as club treasurer, and has been elected for another year in the post. Wall was described as the club's most-needed member.

Nielsen was introduced by Ernie Shaffer, who described the longtime sponsor of Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal as one of the best drafters of teams he has ever known. He has joined forces with Norm Blackwell Sr. to win multiple league championships. "I am so shocked ... so really, really surprised," said Nielsen.

Sesso, the club's secretary, has served as picnic chairperson, league commissioner, team manager, and operator of the club's telephone hotline. She seems to volunteer for everything, said presenter Ron Roach. Ms. Sesso was serving salad at the club's picnic lunch line. Deanna is the third woman recipient of the award — Susan Tucker and Trudy Smartt are the others. The award, once known as the Man of the Year, has been bestowed since 1991. Bill Turner, now 98, was the first recipient.

The award is determined each year by former award recipients under the direction of Dante Ciardella and George Hodsdon. #



**BOB NIELSEN, DEANNA SESSO AND DON WALL (L-R) WERE PRESENTED THE CLUB'S 2018 AWARD OF MERIT, AS SELECTED BY A COMMITTEE OF FORMER RECIPIENTS. THESE MEMBERS HAVE CONTRIBUTED ABOVE AND BEYOND FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE CLUB.**



## JARVIS QUENGA SETS CLUB BATTING AVERAGE RECORD (.910) AS 2018'S TOP GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB HITTER

Setting a club record, Jarvis Quenga hit .910 in 2018, only the second Golden Senior to eclipse the .900 mark in the 12 years since the club moved to the Sacramento Softball Complex.

Quenga's Wednesday night League 4 accomplishment surpassed the .903 mark set in 2014 by Mick Tursky in L6. Quenga posted a near Triple Crown season, pacing L4 with 8 homers, 7 of them over the fence, and his 45 RBI tied for the league lead.

Hal Johnson, who won the club batting title in 2016 (.852) won this year's L2 (.774) en route to a Triple Crown season.

There were 58 over-the-fence homers in GSSCS games this year, a whopping 38 of them by sluggers in the Thursday night L5. Club Commissioner Bob Ellison noted that "some very good" players signed up for L5 in a recruiting drive to fill out rosters. Thirteen fence-clearing clouts occurred in L4 Wednesday night, and only four on Tuesday night L3. Monday and Tuesday day leagues combined for only three.

Here are league-leading hitters, based on statistics kept by club scorekeepers with minimum at-bat requirements:

**L4 Wednesday night:** Average — Jarvis Quenga .910. Home Runs — Quenga 8. Runs Batted In — Quenga and Marc Kirkland, both 45.

**L5 Thursday night:** Jeff Braskamp .821. HR — 12, Jeff Moranville (11 over fence). RBI — Jarvis Quenga 56.

**L3 Tuesday night:** Thomas Nevarez .810. HR over fence — Richard Montierd 3; in the park—3 Auggie Johnson 3. RBI — Curtis Williams 41.

**L2 Tuesday Day:** Hal Johnson .774. HR — Johnson 4. RBI — Johnson 43.

**L6 Tuesday Day:** Joe Cors .820. HR — Kerry Gates 4. RBI — Bruce Gilmore 44.

**L1 Monday Day:** Jerry Horton .778. HR — 1 by four. RBI — Horton 32.

**L7 Monday Day:** Ken Taylor .833. HR — Bill Nevis 5 (one over fence). RBI — Bill Nevis 37.

Eight batters equaled or broke the .800 barrier in 2018. Other than the five league leaders above, they were Quenga (.800) in L5; Walt Strickland (.824) and Rick Cady (.803) in L4.

(Note: Leagues 8 and 9 did not keep statistics) #

### THE TOP TEN 2006-2018

1. JARVIS QUENGA League 4 (2018) .910
2. MICK TURSKY L2 (2014) .903
3. RICK CADY L4 (2015) .891
4. RICH EDWARDS L6 (2012) .882
5. RICH EDWARDS L2 (2013) .875
6. RAY LUCAS L2 (2016) .870
7. STEVE SCHULER L3 (2012) .865
8. MICK TURSKY L6 (2014) .861
9. JEFF MILLER L4 (2012) .860  
TIM KENNER L6 (2017) .860
10. RICHARD REISINGER L4 (2017) .859 #

## BLACKWELL IS SSUSA HALL-OF-FAMER

Norman Blackwell Sr., has been honored by Senior Softball USA, inducting the 84-year-old player and team manager into the SSUSA Hall of Fame.

He was described as one of the most decorated softball players in Sacramento history, whose teams he managed have won 90 world, national and regional championships.

Terry Hennessy, CEO of SSUSA, said on the organization's web site that Blackwell "represents the best qualities of our sport. He is not only an exceptional athlete, but he has provided an excellent example — and training — for ballplayers of all ages." Norm also has been a force behind growth of the Oak Park Little League.

The Golden Seniors Softball Club life member and perennial GSSCS league champion manager and player received the honor at a July 31 ceremony at the Sacramento Softball Complex during the Western Nationals. This tournament was won by Blackwell's Sacramento Gold, a tournament team he has managed for two decades, including the Triple Grand Slam 2016 season.

He belongs to seven halls of fames, including the California Senior Softball Association, NorCal Senior Softball Association, Mexican-American Baseball, and LaSalle Club Baseball.

Late last year, Blackwell said he believed 2018 would be his final season managing the Gold. He turns 85 in November. Seventy years of baseball and softball have taken a toll on his knees and hips. Someone commented on whether Norm was going to hang 'em up, "I'll believe it when I see it."

Meantime, Blackwell-led teams have won 10 or more GSSCS league championships. There undoubtedly will be more, since he was the driving force behind formation of a new GSSCS league for players 80 and over that began play in 2018.

Norm, as a manager or player, is known for intensely positions his team to anticipate a play, coaching them to take the extra base. According to the SSUSA article, Norm said, "I still play for the love and the fun. Some of the guys criticize me saying, 'Hey, Norm, you gotta take it seriously here.' I take it seriously, but I'm just having fun doing it." #



***Norm Blackwell Sr. (right) and Bob Nielsen have combined for 11 Golden Seniors league championships over the years, including the L8 title this year.***

## SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — SAVE THE DATE

George Hodsdon has announced that this year's Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m. at Sakura Chinese Buffet, 2344 Watt Ave., in Sacramento. The cost is \$12.50, including tax and tip. RSVP to Hodsdon at 916-481-9304. #

### TRIPLE PLAYS EXCITE L5 PLAY IN AUGUST

League 5 (Thursday night) Scorekeeper Colette Barnes described two triple plays that highlighted play in August:

RAMBIT Inc. vs. Automated Electric on Aug. 16, fifth inning, runners on first and second. Juan Rivera's grounder was fielded by RAMBIT shortstop Curtis Rodgers, who tagged the runner between second and third, stepped on second to force the runner from first and fired the ball to first baseman Tom McCandless. RAMBIT won, 20-9.

On Aug. 23, Automated Electric found itself on the winning side, 16-9 over John Brendle, thanks in part to an around-the-horn play: Danny Valencia gloved Mike Immoos' hard bouncer, stepped on third for one force out, fired to second for out No. 2, and Kevin Brewer's peg to Baubie Fox at first base retired the batter. #



*Club Commissioner Bob Ellison (left) and 2nd VP Bob Smartt check the schedule for the Sept. 15 league championship playoffs.*





***GSSCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (L-R) BOB SMARTT, BILL HILL, DAVE TANNER, DEANNA SESSO, ROCKY WILKERSON, DON WALL AND BOB ELLISON, AFTER THEIR RE-ELECTION IN AUGUST.***

**CLUB CONTACTS: BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2018 --** President: Bill Hill ... 916-804-2243. First Vice President: Rocky Wilkerson .. 916-595-2941 (Responsible for team sponsorships.) Second Vice President: Bob Smartt ... 916-973-8269 (Responsible for team uniforms, balls.) Treasurer: Don Wall ... 916-434-8308. Secretary: Deanna Sesso ... 916-955-8195. Player Agent: Dave Tanner ... 916-216-1941 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists). Club Commissioner: Bob Ellison ... 916-212-7498 (Responsible for enforcement of league rules, appoints and oversees league commissioners). **TELEPHONE HOTLINE** Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso): 916-491-1721 for meeting dates and field conditions. Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 916-973-8269. GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 456-1500; Safety: Paul Rogers 916-206-1605; Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 916-422-2500. #

# **SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS!!! GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB 2018 TEAM SPONSORS**

**L1 — ESPANOL ITALIAN FAMILY RESTAURANT, NIELSEN REAL ESTATE, TANNER & ASSOCIATES, WENELLI PIZZA.**

**L 2 — SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS, PHOTO FINISH, YANCY CONSTRUCTION, VFW POST 67, AVALON HEARING, SAM'S HOF BRAU.**

**L3 — TRI C MACHINE, LA ROSA'S SPORTS CAFE, BILL HILL, GEREMIA POOLS, WURM & FRYE.**

**L4 — REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE, ELK GROVE LOCK & SAFE, RDR FINANCIAL SERVICES, TRI C MACHINE.**

**L5 — BILL HILL, RAMBIT (RAY MERRILL), JOHN BRENDLE CONSULTING, TRI C MACHINE, LARRY'S HANDY PLUMBING SERVICE, AUTOMATED ELECTRIC.**

**L6 — LIVINGSTON CONCRETE, JERRY JODICE, MARK WHITE DDS, EG THREADS, ESPANOL ITALIAN FAMILY RESTAURANT, GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (GSSA).**

**L7 — HARPER PROPERTIES, JOLLY ROGERS, OVERHEAD DOOR CO. OF SACRAMENTO, BERTOLUCCI'S BODY AND FENDER SHOP.**

**L8 — L&S SURVEYS, R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE/APPRaisal, BILLY BECK, MERRILL BOOKKEEPING.**

**L9 — AMERICAN MEDIQUIP, SHOWBIZ PRODUCTIONS, DIBO (TONY DIBERNARDO), GEORGE GROSS.**