

DUGOUT CHATTER WINTER UPDATE (FEBRUARY 2019)



LIFE MEMBERS — CLASS OF 2019

Eleven Golden Seniors Softball Club members were honored at the Feb. 11 general meeting as the Life Members Class of 2019. As emcee Jim Lortz, clad in tux and tennies, noted, they represent the few and the lucky. Pictured standing: Dave Bristol, 75; Russ Barnes, 75; Jim Stokes, 75, and Dan Tajbl, 80. Seated: Lortz, Mike Jordan, 75; Richard O'Brien, 82, and Patrick Morrison, 75. Not pictured: Robert McBee, 80; Vince Pisani, 89; Patton "Pat" Schell, 80, and Bret Wangan, 76.

REST IN PEACE: JOE KLINE, BILL RIEHL, LARRY LAGOMARSINO

Two pioneer Golden Seniors — Joe Kline and Bill Riehl — and a way-too-young Larry Lagomarsino passed away in recent weeks.

Kline, 93, who died Jan. 22, joined the club in 1988 and played some 25 years, also serving as a manager and sponsor. His team was known as the River Cats, and he had his own band by that name. Joe put together a vaudeville show for a number of years, playing before a sell-out crowd to raise money to outfit his travel team.

George Hodsdon said a number of Joe's former teammates attended a Feb. 9 memorial service. John Wade recalled Joe's tournament-winning homer in Las Vegas. Hodsdon: "At the end of his playing career, Joe's eyes were giving out but he was still one of the best players out there." The Kline family also lost Joe's wife, Joanna, who passed away Dec. 7. She was 89. They had 11 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

The club, at the Feb. 11 general meeting, observed moments of silence for those who had passed. Then the Feb. 12 Sacramento Bee contained the obituary of William Riehl, who was 96 when he passed on Feb. 7. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Mary. Bill was a devout Catholic and a deacon in his church.

An outstanding athlete, Riehl was a Chicago high school teammate of legendary basketball player George Mikan. Bill played softball in Sacramento for more than 70 years, into his 90s. He joined the Golden Seniors in 1983 and played until 2012. Tall and lean, Riehl was an excellent player and sportsman who was able to serve as a pinch runner for younger players.

Lagomarsino was just 64 when he passed away Jan. 25 with family and friends at his side. Larry joined the Golden Seniors in 2005 and played until last summer. A Feb. 15 tribute in the Sacramento Bee said Larry was "the energizer bunny, playing softball, tennis, snow skiing and water skiing ... competitive and played to win in every sport he played." For information on Larry's Feb. 25 celebration of life, email: 1140lago@gmail.com. #