

DUGOUT CHATTER

ONLINE SPECIAL JUNE 2020 EDITION

PANDEMIC CANCELS 2020 SEASON

Due to the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Golden Seniors Softball Club has canceled the 2020 season for all nine leagues. The unanimous decision by the Board of Directors was announced by President Bill Hill on June 15.

“While this decision is disappointing, it also is a relief for many who feel we cannot justify putting our members’ lives in jeopardy,” Hill said. “We must be mindful that our paramount concern will always be the health of our members.”

The decision was reached by the seven club directors via email after thorough review of all the issues, including uncertainty about the availability of playing fields. Hill said there has been no positive word from the operators of the Sacramento Softball Complex or Howe Park on when or if the fields can be used.

The club will offer members total refunds of league fees and club dues for 2020, or the option of rolling over the 2020 payments to the 2021 season. For refunds, write or email your request to Player Agent Dave Tanner at P.O. Box 1178, Elk Grove, CA 95759-1178. The email address is: info@sacramentoseniorsoftball.org.

This information is also on the club website (www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org).

The club’s nine league commissioners were asked to contact their managers to inform their players, who have been awaiting the go-ahead to play since teams were drafted in March. More than half the season has already been lost. Park districts were not ready to say when or if the fields would be opened and under what conditions.

The information was issued as an email blast to the membership as well as in this Dugout Chatter. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

REST IN PEACE: LOU COPPOLA, VIC CALLEN, FRANKIE DEVOL

Life Member **Emo Luigi Fernando Coppola**, better known as Lou, passed away at the age of 92, a loss felt by so many who knew him on ball fields, dance floors, and radio booths. He was an energetic and enthusiastic member of the Golden Seniors, serving in many capacities, and was recognized as the club's Man of the Year in 1998. He played well into his eighties.

His died in his sleep of natural causes in a local care home on April 25, as was noted in a lengthy Sacramento Bee obituary. His passing also was reported in the Senior Softball USA publication.

He was very active organizing Big Band swing music dances. He was a radio personality for decades, as well as ballpark announcer for the Sacramento Solons of the Pacific Coast League.

He is survived by his wife, Betty, and son, Chuck, who told The Bee that his dad "never lost his love of the game" of baseball while being an "unbridled enthusiast of just about everything."

A native of Italy, Lou came to the USA in 1930, when his family fled the fascist Mussolini regime. He played semipro baseball in the Bay Area and worked as an auto mechanic when someone told him he had a great voice and ought to be on the radio. His 40 years in the business was interrupted by Marchant Marine service in World War II and as an Army forward observer in Korea.

The family planned a memorial service when the Corvid-19 pandemic allows.

Victor Callen passed away on April 2. He joined the club in 2012.

Frankie DeVol was 78 when he died on April 5 of heart complications. Besides softball, he was a standout senior baseball player, winning eight world series. He was elected to the Senior Men's Baseball League Hall of Fame in 2007.

Editor's Note: These passings occurred since our last published newsletter. We watch the local newspaper, The Bee, obituaries but we count on members alerting us to passings. Contact our Sunshine & Health chair, Trudy Smartt, at 916 973-8269. #

ABOUT THE DUGOUT CHATTER

The club newsletter is normally published in the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Note that the pandemic has impacted the publishing schedule. The online edition, on the club's website, often includes photos and longer articles. The print edition, limited in space, is mailed to those who do not have Internet access. Members who get the Dugout Chatter via regular mail and prefer the online edition, need to contact Dave Tanner (916) 216-1941. #

BASEBALL TRIPS CANCELED

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has sidelined major league baseball, Sports Leisure Vacations has canceled this season's trips to Giants and Athletics games. The decision to cancel the rest of the season's Sports Leisure Vacations trips for MLB in the Bay Area included the Aug. 13 game pitting the Dodgers against the Giants in San Francisco. Twenty-two seats were being held for Golden Seniors members on the 40-seat motor coach.

The Golden Seniors had worked with Sports Leisure Vacations, a longtime sponsor of our softball club, to reserve seats on the motor coach and at the stadium for the June 7 Athletics-Giants game, which previously was canceled. Assuming there will be major league baseball in 2021, the Golden Seniors will again consider Sports Leisure trips. Stay tuned for an update this winter. #

TWO NEW SPONSORS FOR 2020 (From the Winter Edition)

Two new sponsors for 2020 have been announced by Rocky Wilkerson, club 1st VP. They are Gold River Floors, Inc., and Impax Health. Both were recruited by member Dave Terry.

Returning sponsors, some sponsoring more than one team, are:

Automated Electric, Avalon Hearing, John Brendle Consulting, Club Raven, Dibo's (Tony DiBernardo) , EG Threads, Elk Grove Lock & Safe, Espanol Italian Family Restaurant, George Gross, Harper Properties, Bill Hill, Hilltop Tavern, Jerry Jodice, Joel Jaspin, Jolly Rogers (Bob Rogers), Larry's Plumbing, La Rosa's Sports Cafe, Livingston Concrete, Merrill Bookkeeping (RAMBIT), Nielsen Properties & Appraisal, Old Soul Co. at 40 Acres in Oak Park, Overhead Door Company of Sacramento Inc., Photo Finish, RDR Financial Services Inc., Reinwald Insurance, Sam's Hofbrau, Sports Leisure Vacations, Tanner and Associates, VFW Post 67, Yancey Co. #

CLUB CONTACTS

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS President: Bill Hill 916-804-2243. First Vice President: Rocky Wilkerson 916-595-2941. Second Vice President: 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: Bob Ellison 916-212-7498.

Club Safety Coordinator: Paul Rogers 916-206-1605.

TELEPHONE HOTLINE Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso): 916-491-1721 for meeting news and field conditions. For phone or address changes, and renewal applications, contact Player Agent Dave Tanner at 916-216-1941. Player applications are online at the club web site. Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 916-973-8269; Rules: Bob Ellison 916-212-7498; GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 916-456-1500; Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 916-422-2500. #

