

# **DUGOUT CHATTER — NEWS AND NOTES FOR MEMBERS OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO — WINTER 2021-2022 EDITION**

## **2021: THE CLUB'S "SUCCESSFUL BUT STRESSFUL" YEAR**

The 42nd year for the Golden Seniors Softball Club got under way about month late, due to the Covid 19 restrictions that canceled the 2020 season. The club's nine leagues completed in October what President Bill Hill called a "successful but stressful" season.

The league championship games were often played in extreme weather conditions (very strong winds, gusting over 40 miles per hour, and rain plaguing some games). Teams also were without key players as the month-later playoffs conflicted with major senior softball tournaments. Hill commented, "It's difficult to complain about all this because, after a year off, we were finally able to play some ball."

Hill also noted that the 2022 season would soon arrive and new or returning players need to sign up. And he renewed a call for volunteers to serve on the club's Board of Directors. Player registration forms and information are available on the club website. ([sacramentoseniorsoftball.org](http://sacramentoseniorsoftball.org))

Deanna Sesso, the club's secretary, is the new club commissioner, a very important post that Bobby Ellison served so admirably for six years, managing club playing rules and appointing league commissioners. Hill said Sesso is recruiting a new club secretary, to be announced soon. Rocky Wilkerson, the club's first vice president, has decided to stay on the job with assistance from Dave Terry, who plans to take over in 2023. The first vice president is in charge of sponsorships.

The club's 2021 season ended with nine league championship games in October. There were three Triple Crown hitters and a club record batting average. Playoff game notes and some individual batting achievements:

Of the club's playoff games, neither team won the League 4 championship but the more than two-hour, 10-inning slugfest that saw Automated Electric pull out a 24-23 victory over LaRosa Sports Cafe was one for the ages. The contest began at 7:54 p.m. and ended at 10:02.

In her 20 years of keeping score at Golden Seniors Softball Club games, Colette Barnes said it was the "best game and longest game ever. Wow! Both teams played their hearts out."

The teams were tied 18-18 after the sixth-inning. The seventh inning ended 20-20, and playoffs can't end in a tie. After eight frames, it was 21-21. After the ninth, it was 23-23. Finally, Automated won with one run in the 10th.

Top hitters for Automated Electric, managed by Andy Ybarra, were Emilio Lobato, Robbie Hanson and Jon Lloyd, all 4x5. Manager Rocky Wilkerson's La Rosa SportsCafe was led by 5x6 hitters Eddie Fernandez, Pat McDonald and Jay Reese.

## **NIGHT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RESULTS:**

L3 (TUESDAY NIGHTS) LaRosa Sports Cafe, managed by Deanna Sesso, defeated Rapid Solutions, managed by Stephanie Orozco, 20-12, for the L3 title. Four LaRosa players went 4x4 — Dusty Shaw, Michael Collins, Larry Elsberry and Steve Mullen, who homered. Bill Greene went 3x3, as did Sesso. Rapid Solutions' Steve Cueva was 4x4 and Lou Archuleta went 3x3.

L4 (WEDNESDAY NIGHTS) Bill Hill, managed by club President Bill Hill, won a 27-19 slugfest over Mel Tennyson's Cool Kettle Corn. Tim Kimora paced the winners with a grand slam home run and a triple among four hits. Rich Monteiro drove home six of the Hill runs. Cool Kettle Corn's Bob Silva and Mark Holgerson went a combined 8x8.

L5 (THURSDAY NIGHTS) Brendle Consulting, managed by Jeff Braskamp, edged MarkSweeney's Avalon Hearing 17-16, with the winners scoring three in the bottom of the open inning. Tony Carrasco led Brendle with a homer and three singles, driving in five. Jeff Yeargin paced Avalon with two triples, a double and a single, driving in six.

## **DAY LEAGUES**

L1 (MONDAY MORNING) American Mediquip 18, VFW 9. Managed by Russ Barnes, the winners rode the hot bats of Tom Cordell, Bret Wangan and Curtis Nelson, who combined went 12 for 12. VFW's M.R. Evans, Dave Avery and Jim Hoffman combined were 9 for 9.

L7 (MONDAY MORNING) Also manage by Barnes, Impax Health edged Harper Properties, led by Dave Avery and Freddie Miller, 14-12, in the 70+ league. For the winners, Charley Stebbins, Jim Mays and Barnes combined for 10 hits in as many at-bats. Leading Harper hitters were Ray Mendonsa, Dan Tajbl, Bob Montalvo and Ken Taylor, who combined to go 12x12.

L2 (TUESDAY MORNING) Managed by John Long, Avalon Hearing defeated Pete Ward's Yancey Company, 18-14. Walt Strickland, Joe Wender and Daryl Watson totaled 9 for 9, with Wender adding two sacrifice flies and Strickland clearing the fence. Lyman Rose went 3x3, all doubles, for Yancey.

L6 (TUESDAY MORNING) Espanol Restaurant, managed by Bob Smartt, took the L6 championship with a 14-5 victory over Hilltop Bar, managed by Dave Bristol. The winners turned two double plays to hold down the Hilltop batters, led by Keith Arnold and Joe Ketner, a combined 6 for 6. Mike Viduya, who homered, and Paul Rogers, who plated three runs with a single and a double, led Espanol.

L8 (TUESDAY MORNING) Merrill Bookkeeping, managed by John Colleto, edged Nielsen Real Estate, managed by Norm Blackwell Sr., 9-8.

L9 (TUESDAY MORNING) Sam's Hofbrau, managed by Bill Hooper, scored a 16-14 win over Blackwell's Nielsen team.

### **THREE TRIPLE CROWN WINNERS:**

Lyman Rose in L2, Jarvis Quenga in L4 and Dave Terry in L7. Rose recorded a triple crown in 2019, giving him back-to-back achievements as the club did not play in 2020. "Q" also is a familiar name among topGSSC hitters.

In the 60+ Tuesday morning L6, Rose set a club record with .918, and led L6 with 9 home runs, and 48 RBI. He also led the league in doubles and triples for a whopping 2.102 slugging percentage. In L4, Wednesday night, play, Quenga went .882, 6 HR and 63 RBI. In Monday morning 70+ L7, Terry hit .877, with 10 HR, all inside-the-park, and 52 RBI.

Other 2021 league leaders:

L6 Walt Strickland .891

L3 Dave Hennig .864

L1 Dave Taylor .851

L5 Tony Carrasco .822

L5 lowered the minimum age for men to 48, which apparently contributed to what had to be an unprecedented GSSC number of home runs over the 300-foot fences at the Watt Avenue Complex. Newcomer Jaime Arellano hit 16 homers, including 15 over the fence. According to L5 statistics, there were more than 70 round-trippers for the regular season.

(INFORMATION FROM STATISTICS COMPILED BY SCOREKEEPERS COLETTE BARNES AND DAWN GERLACH.)

### **TOP GSSCS ALL-TIME BATTERS (2006-2021)**

Lyman Rose rose to the top of the list with his .918 average in 2021, moving ahead of Jarvis Quenga. Rose sits as the club's first and third highest averages in records compiled since 2006. The very exclusive .900 Club still has just three members:

1. Lyman Rose L6 2021 .918
2. Jarvis Quenga L4 2018 .910
3. Lyman Rose L6 2019 .909
4. Mick Tursky L2 2018 .903

(EDITOR'S NOTE: the .800 club of hitters, considered a very coveted achievement for many years, is no longer so exclusive. Why so many? Better bats and balls? Yes.

Fewer plays ruled as errors? Maybe. There are many really good hitters who also play in competitive travel leagues. In older leagues, defenders are able to cover less ground. For whatever reasons, the number of .800-and-over hitters has virtually quadrupled to 25 in the past season, notes the club's stats czar, Dave Vargo.) #

## **PLAYER SIGNUPS FOR 2022 ARE UNDER WAY — DON'T MISS OUT**

New and returning players need to submit their applications — available on the club website [www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org](http://www.sacramentoseniorsoftball.org). Player Agent Dave Tanner is in charge of signups. Once league signups are sufficient for drafts, applicants — new and returning — are placed on wait lists. So getting your applications in early assures a spot in the team drafts for the various night and day leagues. More details have been available to members via email “blasts” from President Hill.

## **SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT**

REST IN PEACE: JAY REESE,

Jay Reese, a Tuesday and Wednesday night player, passed away in November, according to Bill Hill, who described Jay as a “very good player and well-liked among club players.” Jay joined the club in 2012. He was 59.

While Sacramento Bee obituaries are checked for familiar names, many passings are not listed in the newspaper, or not recognized as former GSSCS players. Members who hear of a passing are asked to contact Trudy Smartt, our Sunshine and Health chair, or Ron Roach (916 422-2500 and leave a voice message, or email [coachrwr@comcast.net](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net)

## **SHORT HOPS**

**George Hodsdon**, longtime club member and the club’s unofficial historian, and his wife, Rosemarie, moved during 2021. They can be reached at 6017 Winding Way, Apartment 235, Carmichael 95608. Their phone stays the same, 916 481-9304.

**About the Dugout Chatter.** This edition is available only online through the club website. At this time, there is no print edition that in the past has been mailed to members who lack internet access or request the it be sent via snail mail. Editions of the newsletter have been produced four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Also, note that important announcements come online throughout the year, so-called “email blasts” from the club president via Tom Sansone that reach members who have provided their email addresses in their applications/registrations with the club player agent. If you want to receive this information, contact Dave Tanner (916 216-1941) to update the club roster with your contact information. Note that the club does not share club roster information.

Dugout Chatter Editor Ron Roach apologizes in advance for misspelled names or errors of omission or commission. Of course, blame the doggone software spell-checker, not just aging eyes and typing prowess. #