

2007 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS ARE CROWNED

Congratulations to the six GSSC teams emerging as league champions from very competitive match-ups during the club's annual Picnic Day Playoffs on Sept. 15:

League 1 (Monday Day): Wion's Body Shop (managed by Jim Powell Sr.) beat Daugherty Chevrolet (Ray Soden), **8-5**.

League 2 (Tuesday Day): AAA Garment (Freddie Miller and Mickey Schleicher) beat Sports Leisure (Jerry Jodice and Conn Lockett), **15-7**.

League 3 (Tuesday Night): Old Hornets (Harold Meyer and Jerry Toenyes) edged Jolly Rogers (Russ Ellstrom and Wayne Yamamura), **11-10**.

League 4 (Wednesday Night): Bradshaw Ranch Golf (Bud DeSouza) beat Bertolucci Auto Repair (Mardeio Cannon), **6-4**.

League 5 (Thursday Night): GSSA (John Mizerak and Allen Riker) beat Avalon Hearing Center (Dan Roncelli), **8-4**.

League 6 (Tuesday Day Select/Competitive): EmbroidMe (Jerry Jodice and Conn Lockett) beat Hooters Silver and Sexy (Greg Leurgans), **15-12**.

Highlights:

Winning Father-Son Combos: Jim Powell Sr., Wion's Body Shop, and Jim Powell Jr., shortstop for GSSA, the League 5 champion; and Norm Blackwell Sr., of Wion's, and Norm Blackwell Jr., shortstop for League 3's Old Hornets.

Multiple League Champions: Rich Ganas and Monte Miller of Bradshaw Ranch and GSSA; Noel Maldonado of GSSA and EmbroidMe, and Freddie Miller, AAA Garment and EmbroidMe.

Another GSSC First: In the Tuesday Night (Coed) playoff, the Old Hornets' Jane Lincoln was the winning pitcher. Trudy Smartt of Sammy's Family Restaurant was believed to be the first woman to pitch a complete-game victory during 2007 GSSC regular season play. Lincoln is now believed to be the first woman to register a pitching victory in a playoff game. She filled in admirably for the Hornets' ailing regular pitcher, Bob Honda, during the playoffs.

Flashing the Leather: Rich Ganas is known more for his bat than his glove, but don't say that to the Bertolucci team in the League 4 playoff. Ganas, whose batting helped Bradshaw Ranch gain a spot in the finals, was pretty much silenced at the plate in the finale (although a fairly strong wind may have kept one of his towering drives in the park). But the left-fielder's fine running catches retired Bertolucci's first two batters in the bottom of the seventh, helping Bradshaw's two-run lead stand up.

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Morrison Gets Key Hit: In the closest of the playoff games, Patrick (Q-Tip) Morrison stroked the League 3 game-winning hit for the Old Hornets, driving in Barry Mortimeyer. Morrison (also known as Trudy Smartt's brother), homered earlier in the game. Key defensive play: A diving stop by shortstop Norm Blackwell Jr., starting a double play that killed a potential Jolly Rogers rally. Also drawing "web gem" applause from the stands on this play was an outstanding pivot by second-baseman Brent Korff.

Ellstrom is Hurt. Russ Ellstrom, popular Jolly Rogers manager, collapsed with an apparent leg injury while running to first base, having hit an apparent single into the outfield. A.J. Petruzzi, whose hustling throw from short centerfield to first base registered the out on the play, also lent a shoulder to help Russ walk off the field as players from both teams, and with spectators joining in, gave the veteran GSSC player-manager words of encouragement and a standing ovation.

EmbroidMe 1-5-4 DP Dooms Hooters. Defensive play by EmbroidMe in the bottom of the sixth inning was considered by many to be the deciding factor in the 15-12 victory over the top-seeded Hooters. Regular shortstop Freddie Miller played third base because he said his mobility was severely limited after twisting a knee in an earlier playoff game. However, he didn't have to move to snare an opposite-field liner off the bat of A.J. Petruzzi for the inning's first out. Then, with runners on first and second, pitcher Noel Maldonado fielded a come-backer, threw to third for the first out and Miller's throw to second completed the twin-killing. "That killed 'em right there," Miller recalled. "That was the meat of their batting order." EmbroidMe Manager Jerry Jodice noted that his team was four players short and he had to recruit two substitutes, but, after some position adjustments, "things just click ed." It was Jodice's first league championship in four title game opportunities.

New Board Members are Winners: Freddie Miller, the new club commissioner for 2007-08, and Mickey Schleicher, the club's new secretary, were co-managers of the AAA Garment-sponsored team that won the League 2 title.