



DUGOUT CHATTER

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SEPTEMBER 2007

On the Internet: www.GSSCS.org

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2007 GSSC 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. (See

GSSC HONORS PAIR FOR SERVICE TO CLUB

The Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento on Sept. 15 bestowed the Award of Merit for Outstanding Achievement to two long-time contributors to the club's success: Jim Powell Sr. and Susan Tucker.

As hundreds of club members, spouses and friends looked on during the annual Picnic Day at the softball complex, Bill Turner described the award. Since 1982, there now have been 41 recipients of the award (heretofore known as Man of the Year), and 24 are still living. Dante Ciardella said the committee, in its deliberations, felt each of this year's honorees is equally deserving.

Jim Lortz presented the award to Powell, who on that day had claimed his third league championship in nine years. It also was noted that Jim's son, James Powell Jr., also was a league championship player on this day.

Ken Wollenberg described the "super service" of Tucker, who suffered a stroke earlier this year and could not attend. She joined the club in 1996 and, in 2000, became (See Page 3)

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

Thursday

Nov. 1

7:30 P.M.

VFW HALL

2764 Stockton Blvd.

(No October Meeting)

'07 Champs are Crowned

(Continued from page 1)

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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.

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 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 Hoot-

ers. 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 clicked." 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.

Getting There was a Big Story. In the second-round Tuesday Day League playoff, AAA Garment went into the seventh inning against Richard Will Attorney trailing 9-6. With the bases loaded and two out, and the winning run on third, Leo Curry hit a grounder to shortstop Russ Barnes. With no one covering second, he had to throw to first and Curry beat it out. Game over. This is the same Leo Curry who had open heart surgery at the beginning of the season, which he began on injured reserve. Richard Will had advanced with a 32-6 victory over Rabbit Inc., getting 14 runs in the seventh. Don Shank hit for the cycle in that game, driving in eight runs. AAA Garment went on to beat Sports Leisure in the championship game,

Tough Defense Wins. Trailing Daugherty Chevrolet 5-4 in the fifth inning, Manager Jim Powell Sr. rallied his troops for a four-run rally and the Wion's Body Shop defense did the rest for an 8-5 victory in the Monday Day League championship game. (Info from scorer Colette Barnes.)

An Undefeated Season – with Wedding Bells. While the Old Hornets finished 19-2 for the season, reeling off 16 straight wins to dominate Tuesday night play, outfielder A.J. Petruzzi had a perfect year. His team was 3-0 when he took off for Hawaii to get married. The record was 3-2 when he got back, and he said Manager Harold Meyer threatened him with loss of life if "his good luck charm" missed another game. Thus the team won all 19 games in which A.J. participated. #

BLAST FROM THE PAST
In 1984, Jim McNamara won the "nicest golfer/least softball playing time" award at the 4th Annual Golden Seniors Golf Tournament at Lawrence Links (McClellan AFB). Carl Boyer (78) was the low-gross player. Humble Steve Zupan was named the "Best BS Artist." (Source: GSSC Vol. II, August 1989.)

Stay tuned: There are plans afoot for a renewal of the Golden Seniors golf tournament/gathering. Anyone interested in helping to organize this event should contact Ron Roach (422-2500). #

**SUPPORT YOUR GSSC
BY ATTENDING
GENERAL MEETINGS**

PICNIC NEWS: TUCKER AND POWELL ARE HONORED FOR SERVICE

(From Page 1)

second vice president, the first woman to serve on the Board of Directors. She also was the first woman to manage a team, in 2001. She also was the first woman to serve as editor of the Dugout Chatter, a job she performed for nearly five years.

“Job well done!!!” GSSC President Dan Norton used those words to summarize the 2007 season. He said the year had a “rocky start” but “turned out well.”

Norton was re-elected to a full term in August and was sworn in, along with other board members present at the picnic: Second Vice President Pete Ward, Secretary Mickey

Schleicher, Player Agent Tom Sansone and Club Commissioner Freddie Miller. The 2007-08 year began with controversy as the elected president stepped aside, requiring a special election. Then, most of the club’s general meetings were so poorly attended that business could not be conducted due to an unworkable quorum requirement.

The coming year’s outlook is much brighter, thanks to the adoption of amended by-laws that will make it easier to conduct business through actions approved by a majority of those attending meetings.

Norton thanked the 2006-07 board for their service: Alan Piccardo,

first vice president; Thomas Todd, second vice president; Henry Low, secretary; Glen Cole, treasurer; George Hodsdon, player agent, and Dave Vargo, club commissioner.

Another Successful Picnic. Attendees applauded the hard work of Dante Ciardella and Benny Benson, who led the picnic committee, and other volunteers -- Great hamburgers, hot dogs, beans, salads and, of course, cake.

Benny and Dante: Your continued hard work and dedication to the club should be apparent to all. Thank you! #

Golden Seniors Celebrate September Birthdays

Sept. 1— Bob Del Chiaro, Harry Sutton. Sept. 2— Philip Phelps, Robert Stuart. Sept. 3— Robert South. Sept. 4— Lee Briones, Ken Dempsey, Monte Miller. Sept. 5— Donald Winter. Sept. 6— Russell Barnes, Karl Bik, Rich Edwards. Sept. 9— Mardeio Cannon, Richard Scott. Sept. 10— Edgar Campini, August Niklas. Sept. 11— Kenneth Ster-

gion. Sept. 13— John Burns, Lou Coppola (#80!), Ben Ellsworth, Donald Wall. Sept. 14— Dean Ross, Rick Valpreda. Sept. 15— William Friedrich. Sept. 16— Larry Lagomarsino, Dan Severson. Sept. 17— Paul Thompson. Sept. 18— John Guzman, Don Watson. Sept. 19— William Lew, Michael Lofton, Noel Maldonado, Ed Rill, Joe Sugi-

moto. Sept. 20— Ray Crews, Terry Hennessy. Sept. 21— John Kocunik. Sept. 22— John Dearing, Russ Ellstrom, Steve Kenner, Babe Thomas. Sept. 23— Don Long, Ken Poole, Stan Scott. Sept. 24— Henry Low. Sept. 26— Lester Larson, David Sturdivant. Sept. 27— Ray Canny. Sept. 28— James Lamm. Sept. 29— Curtis Holcomb. Sept. 30— Rudy Paiva. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Fred Rainey, described as becoming dizzy while at the VFW hall for breakfast, spent 3 or 4 days in the hospital with high blood pressure in mid-September, according to George Hodsdon. He said Fred, who has operated the club answering machine for the past decade, “at this point, will try to continue” performing this important job.

George Padovan, 83, passed away on Aug. 13. A non-playing life member, George joined the club in 1979.

Jim Holton, 85, non-playing life member who joined the club in 1992, passed away on Sept. 11.

Norm Siefkin, 62, Tuesday day player, died Sept. 19 of

melanoma. He played in the 1990s and rejoined the club in 2006. #

Not Ready to Put the Glove and Bat Away?

Dave Avery (203-6702) says those interested in playing on Sunday afternoons should contact him. If there are enough players, games will be scheduled at Fair Oaks Park. #

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Dugout Chatter: A Team Effort
I've been given more credit than is due for producing the DC since Editor Susan Tucker became ill. Many thanks to Lou Coppola, without whom I'd really be struggling; and to Jim Wait, who makes sure it is processed and delivered. I also am indebted to the contributions of board members, particularly Dave Vargo and George Hodsdon for their help, as well as our scorekeepers, Sandy and Colette. As you can see, this is a team effort. — Ron Roach, editor.

**READ DUGOUT CHATTER
SOONER ON THE I-NET**

The club newsletter is available on our Website (www.gsscs.org) days or even weeks before it arrives by snail mail. Want an e-mail note that a new issue is on line? Send me your e-mail address: coachrwr@comcast.net. We've also switched to first-class postage!!! — Ron Roach #

Kings Tickets: George Hodsdon says he has 1/5 of pair of upper-deck tickets for sale. 481-9304.#

OLDEST GSSC MEMBER IS FEATURED IN SACRAMENTO BEE

Some six weeks ago, *The Sacramento Bee* published an outstanding feature on **Vito Virga**, who will turn 104 in April. Playing ball has been a large part of the life of this oldest member of the GSSC of Sacramento. George Hodsdon passed along a clip of the story while noting that Vito sponsored a team for a long time. A nephew, David, planned to honor Vito by opening a new pizzeria and calling it Uncle Vito's, *The Bee* reported. #

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