



DUGOUT CHATTER

On the Internet: www.GSSCS.org ... GSSC Answering Machine: 491-1721

NEW LIFE MEMBERS ARE HONORED AT MARCH MEETING

MARCH 2008

READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE OR GET COPY AT GAMES

For many Golden Senior members, this could be the last Dugout Chatter to arrive in their mail boxes.

For those non-playing members without Internet access, or those unable to pick up a printed copy at games, the club will continue to send the DC through the mail.

For the vast majority, check out the Golden Seniors website (www.gsscs.org). Each month's issue (barring extenuating circumstances, of course) is available online by mid-month, usually at least a week before it could arrive by "snail mail."

Individual managers are key to making our newsletter distribution program effective and efficient.

Managers unable to access the Internet or communicate via e-mail to players should consider delegating that responsibility to one of their players. Then you can "pass the word" to your team much more efficiently, and you can also alert your players that a new DC is ready to read on the club Web site.

Questions? Contact Ron Roach, editor, at coachrwr@comcast.net. #

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

7:30 P.M. MONDAY, MAY 5
VFW HALL, 2764 STOCKTON
BLVD.

(NO GENERAL MEETING IN

Fifteen new Life Members were honored at the GSSC's March 3 general meeting, where a tuxedoed Jim Lortz told some of their stories. There are nearly 130 Life Members, about 60 of them still active players.

Membership voted unanimous approval of the new Life Members at the February general meeting. To be eligible for Life Member consideration this year, a member had to join the club by May 1, 1993 and be turning 75 or older in 2008, or have a May 1, 1998 entry date and turn (See Page 2)

Sunshine & Health Report

FOUR VETERAN GSSC MEMBERS PASS ON

The annual late-winter anticipation of a new season of softball has been sadly disrupted. The ranks of long-time GSSC members were reduced by the passings of Bob Pugmire, Harry Knight, Bud Freeny and Frank Thommen.

Robert Pugmire, pitcher and umpire, passed away on Feb. 19. Most were unaware that he was dying. News of his illness came too late for last month's Dugout Chatter. "Pug" died from a very aggressive cancer diagnosed in his lungs in January, after having been hospitalized with pneumonia in December.

Bob, who was 73, joined the Golden Seniors in 1985 and was very active as a player and an umpire. His death came as a shock to saddened friends and former teammates. He was a very high Monday League 1 draft choice as a pitcher at

GOLDEN SENIORS GOLF SIGNUPS DUE

Attention golfers: Time is getting short for reserving your spot in the May 2 GSSC tournament.

The afternoon shotgun start, scramble foursome event is scheduled for the Lincoln Hills Golf Club. The entry fee is only \$75, including lunch, green fee, cart and prize fund. This is an incredible bargain for the Golden Seniors.

Bill Knoblauch is the golf chairman (408-5501). The entry form with more details is inside this issue and also online at the club web site. Until March 15, entries are limited to GSSC members and their guests. #

this year's draft. "We did not find out until after the draft that he had passed on that morning," George Hodsdon said. "There must have been 50 to 60 Golden Seniors" at the funeral on Feb. 25.

Pugmire played on several tournament teams, including Norm Blackwell Sr.'s Gold when they won the World Championship. He also played for the Silvers and for Dante Ciaradella's Thursday Sierra League team.

Harry Knight, 79, passed away on Feb. 24. He joined the GSSC in 1984 and was an active life member right up to the end, coaching "I Forgot," Joe Klein's League 1 team last year. Harry was inducted into the LaSalle Club Hall of Fame.

(See Page 4.)

Life Members are Honored at March Meeting (From Page 1)

80 or older this year. The inductees:

Chris Amicucci, 75, has 23 years with the club. A native of Donora, PA, along with Stan Musial and Ken Griffey Jr., Chris played on the 1999 Sacramento Gold 65s who won the AAA championship in Arizona.

Norm Blackwell Sr., 75, has 23 years as a Golden Senior. He noted that he's 75 but his knees are "all new. A key player in Sacramento Gold national championship teams, Norm is a member of the LaSalle Hall of Fame. In 1999, he carried the Olympic torch on behalf of Sacramento.

Tom Coe, 80, has 18 years with the club during which he said, "I played every position at least once - most of 'em only once."

Chuck George, 80, a Golden Senior since 1992, commented that "I just have a lot of fun" and thanked everyone for providing such an experience.

Allen Hegelein, 75, has been in the club 15 years and it was noted that he often volunteers besides being part of four league championship teams. This was an emotional time for Allen and his many friends at the meeting as he said how much he misses "my wife, my fan, my supporter." Barbara, his wife of 54 years, passed away in January.

Joe Mucciaccio, 80, who joined the GSSC in 1993, was the club's Man of the Year in 2003. He also was credited with bringing GSSC

into the 20th Century of communications with his outstanding computerized record-keeping.

Don Osborne, 75, a member since 1989, was remembered for being part of the Jerry Nevis "rebellion" over hats, when all members of the Nevis Realty team stayed away from a game in protest. Carole Osborne noted that she asked her husband: "When will you quit playing ball?" She said he replied, "When I die."

Ted Slausen, 75, joined the GSSC in 1984. In 24 years, he said special memories are "just too many to remember." He has served as a manager. The Golden Seniors engrained the virtues of teamwork in him, so that he'd be happy to go hitless if his team won.

William "Bill" Venable, 75, said that in his 24 years with the Golden Seniors, he believes there "is not another league that has so much fun. ... These guys taught me how to play slow pitch." (Someone quipped: "You were a quick study.")

Ray Ward, 80, a member since 1983, managed teams for several years and played on the Wion's Body Shop championship team in 2007.

Also inducted, but not present at the meeting, were **Ed Campini**, 80, a member since 1992 and the club's Man of the Year in 2005. He served as club treasurer for four years; **John Cotter**, 75, a member since 1992; **Hamilton Hintz**, 75, a member 22 years, had pleasurable seasons but no championships; **Albert Morales**, 75, a member since 1983 and inducted into the Mexican-American Hall of Fame in 1989, and **Arnold Schuler**, 75, a member for 20 years and a Wednesday night championship player in 2007 (Bradshaw Ranch). #

READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ON-LINE: www.GSSCS.ORG

WELCOME TO NEW SPONSORS FOR '08

By Dave Vargo, First VP

Monday Day League #1 will feature **Mimi's Café**, an Alta Arden eatery frequented by league players. Tuesday Day League #2 features **ASAP Signing Services** of Fair Oaks, arranged by member Don Shank, our answering machine specialist. Secretary Mickey Schleicher is sponsoring **Zorrace Inc.** (Picture Mickey in a Zorro costume playing piano like Liberace.)

Wednesday Night League #4 and Thursday Night League #5 will feature **California Energy Service**, arranged by member Bill Hill. Thursday also features **Senior Magazine**, arranged by Entertainment Chair Lou Coppola, and **Norcal Jackets**, arranged by Pete Ward, the club's second VP. Pete's expertise has already eliminated some of the color clashes and members can look forward to some jaunty colors and logos.

Something old, something new: Our jersey vendor, EmbroidMe, is now doing business as **American River Apparel**, a Tuesday Select League 6 sponsor. Also, Citrus Heights Terrace is now **Arden Park Villa**. #

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

These members have birthdays in March: Bob Silvis, Arnold Wilkerson, Marino DelChiaro, Patrick Osborne, Manuel Perry, Fred Fischer, Don Doolittle, Domenic LaFazia, Gary Holmes, Jerry Moody, Celeste Bradford, John Boudier, Joe Castro, Skip Ellsworth, Michael Kalas, Dennis Vega, William Campbell, Vic Spahn, John Thomas, Glen Cole, Lloyd Waggoner, Robert Havrilla, Harley Doughty, M.R. Evans, Bob Mitchell, Tony Martini, David Raydon, A.J. Petruzzi, Mickey Schleicher, Norm Cady and John Hogue. #

GOLDEN SENIORS GOLF TOURNEY ENTRY FORM

When: Friday, May 2, 2008 ... 1 P.M. Shotgun Start

Where: Lincoln Hills Golf Club (Hills Course)

Format: Scramble Foursomes

Entry Fee: \$75 (includes sack lunch, green fee, cart)

Registration Deadline: March 25. Limited to first 144 paid entries. Preference will be given until March 15 to members of the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento and their non-member guests within their foursomes.

Questions: Contact Bill Knoblauch at 408-5501 or knobby@rocketmail.com; Ron Roach at 422-2500 or coachrwr@comcast.net; Jerry Toenyas at 354-4126, or Dan Norton at 689-4505.

Do you wish to sponsor a hole for \$100? ____ . Can you provide prizes? ____ .

Return this entry form with check for \$75 per player, payable to the Golden Seniors Softball Club or GSSC, to Bill Knoblauch, 2044 Stonecrest Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

Player 1 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Player 2 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Player 3 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

Player 4 _____ Mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ e-mail _____

E-Mail addresses are to be used to confirm entries and provide additional information as necessary.

They will not be used for any other purpose.

You do not have to enter as a foursome. You will be placed in a group needing an additional player or players, or indicate your partners who may be entering on another form.

March Meeting News

Notes from the March 3 General Meeting: **Bats** — Club Commissioner Freddie Miller reported that ASA is conducting further testing of bats and is expected to publish results on March 8. Umpires will be enforcing strict bat rules for the night leagues and the League 6 select competition. “We will be explaining all that in the practice sessions,” he said. The city is cracking down in the wake of a multi-million-dollar lawsuit filed by a woman pitcher in a coed game who was struck in the face by a line drive last fall. The batter said he didn’t know the bat he used had been tampered with. He has

been banned from ASA play for two years. The owner of the bat received a four-year ASA suspension. The victim “is going in for the fourth surgery on her face,” Miller said.

Player Agent Report — Tom Sansone said all 580 slots on 38 teams have been filled, including 82 multi-league players and 35 new members, “but we’re still looking for new members.” Waiting lists are being exhausted in some leagues because of injuries and planned surgeries — even before the first official practices, he said.

League 1 News — George Hodsdon reported why the Monday day league shouldn’t add more teams: “We had 12 to 13 players on standby, and they’re

all gone and we haven’t started playing yet!” League 1’s draft was completed with eight teams of 14 players. Out of the 112 players, 30 are league age 80 or over, including seven who are at least 85. Dinny Watson is the oldest at 88, with Nick Hansen and Fernando Navarro at 87. Hodsdon: “Out of 112 we have several with pacemakers, but that doesn’t slow them down. In summary, good genes, an active life style and a little competition help to keep a person going.” #

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Golden Seniors Softball Club
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 Sacramento, CA 95828

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President	Daniel Norton	689-4505
1st Vice President	Dave Vargo	689-7061
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Secretary	Mickey Schleicher	239-9230
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Commissioner	Freddie Miller	372-6864

TELEPHONE “HOTLINES”

Sunshine & Health
973-8269

Phone/Address Changes
391-3938

New Player Applications
686-1654

GSSC #3912

Blood Bank
456-1500

Dugout Chatter
Ron Roach, editor

422-2500

Club Answering Machine, managed by Don Shank, for Field Conditions and Meeting News:
491-1721

Sunshine & Health Report (From Page 1)

Life Member **Lewine “Bud” Freeny**, 75, passed away Feb. 18. He joined GSSC in 1988 and was a non-player for the past five years. Bud, an outstanding third baseman and big hitter, was proud of the ring that he won with the World Champion Sacramento Gold.

Life Member **Frank Thommen**, 88, passed away in early February. He joined the GSSC in 1983, but stopped playing a few years ago. Bill Turner remembers Frank as “one of the nicest men you could ever know.”

Emergency Operation: **Jack Gruber** is reported to be recovering from surgery in February for an aneurysm in his stomach. He felt a “knot” in his stomach and saw his doctor to check it out. As soon as the lab test results were up, Jack was moved to an operating room for immediate surgery. He expects to be back pitching on his Monday League 1 team by the middle of April. *Injured Shoulder:* League 1 Commissioner **Jim McNamara** suffered a broken collarbone during practice Feb. 29. **Hal Seufert**, League 1 manager for years and years, was hospitalized for tests. **Ramiro Luna**’s wife, Carmen, passed away. #

Olympic Team — A number of Golden Seniors have signed up to volunteer as ushers for the May 19 exhibition at the Complex featuring the USA women’s softball “Bound 4 Beijing” tour. #

There will be no meeting in June. The July 7 meeting will be in the North Area, while the Aug. 4 meeting will be at the Stockton Boulevard site. The final meeting of the fiscal year will be in September at the annual picnic.

Bats and Balls. Club Commissioner Freddie Miller reported that ASA rules will be followed, meaning the Miken Freak and the Combat bats will not be allowed. Check the ASA list and if the bat is on the list as disallowed, it cannot be used in GSSC games. The club will use 44-375 Worth balls. The same “small balls” as last year will be used when women bat in the League 3 games.

Practice Games: Tuesday Day, March 18, 25; Tuesday Night, March 18, 25; Wednesday Night, March 19, 26. Thursday Night, March 20, 27. (An NCAA tournament has the Complex March 10-15.) The regular season begins the first week of April. (Check the telephone hotline, 491-1721, and the club Web site for further updates and field conditions. #

