

DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO (WWW.GSSCS.ORG) -- MAY 2012

LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

Triple Plays and Back-to-Back-to-Back Jacks!

Though the 2012 Golden Seniors softball season is still young, there have been numerous big plays in the day and night leagues. Would you believe a game-ending triple play? How about three consecutive fence-clearing hits?

And on Monday mornings, another triple play was executed. And the same batter (Henry Low) hit into two triple plays in a span of just six days. (See Low's L-1 update in this issue.)

League 5 (Thursday nights) on May 10 featured an over-the-fence homer by Monte Miller of Miller's Munchies. The next two batters, Rich Ganas and Tim Kesner, also homered over the fence, though the rules limited them to singles. "Three over in a row!" declared scorekeeper Sandy Begg, something that she said she had not seen before.

She also noted a long home run off the bat of Lyman Rose of Espanol Italian Restaurant as he also singled, doubled and tripled, hitting for the cycle on May 10.

Clearly, the use of better bats allowed this year has increased the loss of balls over the fences, though Chief Umpire Tom Bussey noted that in one 6:30 p.m. game, golfers on the Arcade Course threw back three balls. Pete Ward, second vice president in charge of uniforms and equipment, does not see the club running out of balls.

L-5 had a 15-15 tie between Espanol and 9th & X Street Storage on May 10, a week after a 23-23 tie between Overhead Door and Reinwald's Health & Dental. Reinwald's Emilio Lobato ripped four doubles while Overhead was led by Bob Ellison's two triples and two doubles. Matt Tedrow, who was on deck when the last out was recorded around 10:30, called it the most tiring game in his memory.

L-5 Standings through May 10:

1. Miller's Munchies 3-1
2. Overhead Door 2-0-2
3. 9th and X Storage and Espanol 2-2
5. Reinwald's Health & Dental 1-2-1

NEXT GENERAL MEETINGS:

7:30 p.m.,

Mondays,

July 9 &

Aug. 13

VFW Hall, 2784

Stockton Blvd.

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6. NorCal Jackets 1-3

-- From Scorekeeper Sandy Begg.

L-2 STANDINGS (THRU MAY 1)

1. Harper Properties and Richard H. Will Attorney, 4-1-1.

3. Jolly Rogers 4-2.

4. Sports Leisure and RAMBIT INC. 2-4

6. VFW Post 67 1-5

Sports Leisure had the highest team batting average, .732, but Jolly Rogers had the top slugging average, 1.005. Dave Avery of Sports Leisure had two over-the-fence homers and was the league player of the week for April 10. Other players of the week: Jules Morganstern of VFW Post 67 on April 3, Dave Vargo of Harper Properties on April 17, Howard Toder of Harper Properties on April 24, and Merv Mill of Jolly Rogers on May 1.

Extra Inning Game Ends With Triple Play: Jolly Rogers' shortstop John Lack tagged a runner off second, forced another runner heading to second and threw to first baseman Merv Mill for the triple play that silenced Sports Leisure's comeback in the last half of the eighth inning on May 8. Final score: Jolly Rogers 17, Sports Leisure 15.

L-2 grand-slam homers so far this season have been hit by Mill and Toder.

-- From Scorekeeper Colette Barnes.

L-4 Standings (through four games)

1. Executive Limousine and Denny's 3-1.

3. C&C Plumbing 1-1-1.

4. Cottonwood Estates 1-2.

5. Bertolucci's Body and Fender and East Lawn 0-3

Players of the Week: April 4 -- Mel Tennyson of Bertolucci's went 5 for 5, driving in seven runs and scoring six; April 18 -- Roy Reid of Cottonwood Estates went 4 for 4, with two doubles and two homers, driving in six runs; May 2 -- Jarvis Quenta of Executive Limo went 3 for 3, with two homers and seven RBI (giving him a league-leading 21 RBI. Quenta also is leading the league with a .938 batting average.

-- From Scorekeeper Colette Barnes.

L-6 Standings (through six weeks)

1. GSSA, Better Softball Equipment and Avalon Hearing 5-1.

4. Mark White DDS 1-4-1.

5. Lasereyes.com 1-5

6. Arnold Properties 0-5-1

Joe Cors of Mark E. White DDS has hit for the cycle and been listed as a player of the week, along with Jon Ellison of GSSA, Howard Toder of Better Softball Equipment, and Rich Edwards and Joe Shea of Avalon Hearing.

Brett Wangan is the early season batting leader at .944. Toder is the home run leader with four in-the-parkers, while Jon Ellison has three that cleared the fences and an eye-popping slugging average of 1.905. He has 24 RBI, seven more than L-6 runner-up Dave Vargo. -- From Scorekeeper Colette Barnes.

L-3 STANDINGS (thru May 8)

1. Geremia Pools 5-1
2. Silver Cats 4-2
3. Old Hornets and Livingston Concrete 3-3
5. Fuddruckers 2-4
6. Tanner & Associates 1-5

May 1 highlights: A.J. Petruzzi and Bob Rossi had perfect nights at the plate for Geremia Pools but the Old Hornets were the 19-15 winner on the strength of Greg Diehl's perfect game at the plate, including a homer. M.R. Evans contributed a double and a triple, while Steve Casarez and J.C. Terry also tripled and Linda McCollum-Greene added a double to the winners' attack.

Tanner & Associates, led by perfect games at the plate from Jack Kocunik and Emilio Lobato (three triples), a homer from Myron Dahl and a triple from Bruce Gilmore, beat Fuddruckers 15-10. The losers were led by Curtis Williams, who was perfect at the plate, and Steve Lawrence, who doubled.

Livingston edged the Silver Cats 12-11, thanks to perfect games at the plate by Steve Schuler, Mel Tennyson and Rick Valpreda. One of Schuler's two homers cleared the fence. Pat Morrison and Mike Viduya also homered. Norm Blackwell Jr. had hits in all of his at-bats for the Silver Cats.

On May 8, M.R. Evans (Old Hornets), Jim Taff (Silver Cats) and Jack Wabinga (Fuddruckers) homered inside the park.
-- From Scorekeeper Sandy Begg.

MONDAY MORNING NEWS: HIGHLIGHTS OF L-1 GAMES

From Henry Low, L-1 Commissioner

The battle for the round one championship in League One continues to be a struggle between the top three teams (L&S Surveys, Nielsen Real Estate and In Memory of Becks). Because there are nine teams in League One, each round takes nine weeks of head-to-head competition with one team having a bye each week. There are three rounds of play scheduled to complete the season in preparation for a four team playoff. After our games of April 30th the three teams mentioned above were all undefeated. On May 7th Nielsen and Becks played with Nielsen getting the 16 – 7 win. Then on May 14th Becks played L&S Surveys with Becks getting the 11 – 10 win in an extra inning. This game had an exciting finish with Becks turning an unusual triple play in the final inning. With runners on first and third the triple play went from 5 (Shaffer) to 11 (Low) the rover to 3 (Lamm) to 2 (Wilkerson). Also unusual, this was the second triple play that Low was involved in during the last six days of GSSCS play. The other one you will probably read about in the League Two Status in this Chatter. Triple plays somehow don't seem to be so rare in GSSCS play given one player being involved in two such plays in a six day period.

After the head to head completion between the three top teams the past two weeks there are no longer undefeated teams in League One, but three teams with one loss each. See

league standings below. Unfortunately, Nielsen and L&S Surveys don't play each other in the first round of play; because there was a rainout when they were scheduled to play. At this point L&S Surveys has a little bit of an edge; because they currently have one more win. Their bye week is the last week of the first round, so they just need to win their game next week to ensure a tie for first place in round one. Becks and Nielsen have to win two more games in round one to ensure just one loss in the first round. Because we won't be playing on Memorial Day, our first round games will be completed on June 4th. If there are two or three teams tied at the end of round one, the winner will be determined by tie breakers.

We are continuing the trial of a V at second base to direct the runner away from the bag at second on a run through, when there is no play at the bag. Although we got off to a bad start, the League One players are getting more use to the concept. Occasionally a runner is being called out for entering the V area, when there is a play at the bag. Of course, this happened under the previous run through rule too.

League One Standings – 5/15/12

Team	W	L
L&S Surveys	5	1
Nielsen Real Estate	4	1
Billy Beck	4	1
Show Biz Productions	3	2
American Med Equip	2	3
Jerry Jodice	2	3
Wion's Body Shop	2	4
Merrill Bookkeeping	1	4
Storyhat	1	5
#		

SAFETY REPORT: CLUB NEEDS COORDINATOR

Interested in leading the club's efforts to promote and maintain the safest environment possible for our players? Contact Club President Tom Sansone or any member of the Board of Directors (see contact information elsewhere in this newsletter). Curtis Holcomb, who had been safety coordinator, is now serving as club commissioner. We need a full-time safety coordinator!!!

SUNSHINE AND HEALTH REPORT

Karen Merrill, wife of Ray Merrill for 29 years, passed away in April. Our sympathies, Ray, as we are all aware of how much she has meant to you.

Due to diabetes, **Hi Witt** had several toes amputated, further complications resulted in further surgery with the rest of his leg being removed just below his knee last week. -- April 12, 2012.

Allen Auwae had to withdraw from L-1 play due to doctors orders for his heart condition. **Bill Stephens** has returned and is taking his place on the roster. -- Hodsdon, April 12.

SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

RIVER CATS TICKETS FOR 2012. Entertainment Chairman Lou Coppola reports that, as a season ticket holder, he has access to RiverCats tickets (saving \$4 to \$5 per ticket) during the course of the season. He said the tickets are very flexible and exchangeable other dates in the same Section 109, Rows 15-30. Call Lou (444-6138) for details. #

VENABLE. On Friday, April 13, Dodgers pitcher Aaron Harang was about to set a record by striking out 10 straight San Diego Padres batters, when Will Venable, grandson of Bill Venable, who plays in L-1 on Nielsen Real Estate, homered over the fence. What is the old saying? Like grandfather, like father (Max Venable), like son.

Sansone: "I have played with Bill on a couple of teams on Tuesday mornings, so I asked him about Will. Bill indicated Will is his grandson. I saw a game in San Francisco last year when the Padres were in town. I mentioned to Bill that I saw his grandson play. He asked me how he hit. I told him Will went oh for 3. Bill said, "Ohh, his grandma is not gonna like that!" (Will almost hit for the cycle on May 15 as Padres beat the Nationals.)

DAN RONCELLI recently displayed something unique, a personalized STRAT-O-MATIC Baseball Game Card, advanced game version, that he created from 2011 Tuesday L-2 and L-6 Golden Seniors statistics. He gets lots of singles and, it should be noted, hits left-handers better than right-handers. Realistic? Who's to argue? He rarely gets a double or triple, never hits a home run. He also doesn't strike out or walk, but somehow he can be injured when hit by a pitched ball. Hmmm? #

NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: JUNE 2012. READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE AT WWW.GSSCS.ORG WHERE NEWS UPDATES AND PHOTOS ARE PUBLISHED AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, YOU CAN REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE DUGOUT CHATTER MAILING LIST AND READ THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE, SAVING THE CLUB POSTAGE, PAPER AND INK. TO GET OFF THE SNAIL-MAIL LIST, CALL HENRY LOW AT 391-3938. MARCH-THRU-AUGUST ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE GENERALLY AVAILABLE ONLINE WITH SOME PRINTED COPIES AVAILABLE AT FIELDS (SEE SCOREKEEPERS). THE ONLINE EDITION IS USUALLY ACCESSIBLE DAYS BEFORE THE PRINTED EDITION ARRIVES VIA U.S. MAIL. THE ONLINE EDITION ALSO MAY CONTAIN MORE INFORMATION AND PHOTOS. ADVERTISING: CLUB SPONSORS MAY RUN ADS IN THE DUGOUT CHATTER (\$50 FOR QUARTER-PAGE OR LESS, \$75 FOR A HALF-PAGE. NON-SPONSOR RATES ARE HIGHER.) CONTACT LOU COPPOLA, 444-6138. #

"HOTLINE" SOURCE FOR NEWS, INFORMATION

The club's hotline provides recorded information for members, such as the general meeting schedule. It also is where players can call to make sure their games are going to be played as scheduled due to threatening weather or other events that make the fields unplayable, such as water main breaks or thefts of copper wire that prevents use of lights for night games. These things have happened, so even if the weather looks balmy, and you can't be reached by your manager, you might be advised to give the "hot line" a jingle at 491-1721. #

DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE AND AT FIELDS

With the March issue, the Dugout Chatter is available for players to pick up at the fields where they play. Check the scorekeeper's desk for a copy. Better yet, read the Dugout Chatter online at www.gsscs.org. From March through August, the Chatter is mailed to a restricted list of sponsors, non-playing life members, and players on injured reserve. To hold down our newsletter costs, particularly postage, the newsletter is mailed to the membership during the months when there are no games, which is normally October through February. Members may inform Assistant Secretary Henry Low (391-3938) to request that they be taken off the mailing list year-round, as nearly 50 members have done. #

SPONSORS SIGNED UP AND PAID FOR 2012

First VP Dick Latimer lists these club sponsors as paid up for 2012, and urges club members to reward their support by giving them business:

American Medequip (Sponsoring 2 teams, the second in memory of Alicia's father)

Arnold Properties

Avalon Hearing Aid Centers Inc.

In Memory of the Becks

Bertolucci's Body & Fender Shop

Better Softball Equipment

C&C Plumbing & Electrical

Cottonwood Estates

East Lawn

Espanol Italian Restaurant (Sponsoring 2 teams)

Executive Limousine

Geremia Pools

Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA)

Harper Properties

In Memory of Jerry Jodice

Jolly Rogers

LASEREYES.COM

L & S Surveys

Livingston's Concrete Service

Merrill Bookkeeping Income Tax

Miller's Munchies

R.H. Nielsen Real Estate/Appraisal

NorCal Jackets

Overhead Door Company of Sacramento Inc.

Rabbit Inc.

Reinwald's Health & Dental Insurance Plans Brokerage

Show Biz Productions

Silver Cats

Sports Leisure Vacations

STORYHAT

Tanner and Associates

VFW Post 67

Mark E. White DDS

Wion's Body Shop

Richard H. Will, Attorney

Anyone who knows of a potential sponsor can help recruitment. The fee is \$300 for the first year, when uniform jerseys are prepared, and \$250 per year thereafter. For more information, contact Dick Latimer at 363-9555. #

GSSCS FACTS & FIGURES

From the GSSCS data base, managed by Henry Low, the club had a roster of 455 as of April 30, down from 506 a month earlier, as non-renewals from 2011 were purged. Forty-three new members were added so far this year. The roster includes 97 multi-league players filling 218 slots on teams. Forty-eight members with access to www.gsscs.org were not receiving the Dugout Chatter by mail. That is a savings exceeding \$200 in postage for a 10-issue year.

The club has 143 life members, including 69 in non-playing status.

The club is maintaining a mailing list of non-renewals so they can be sent membership applications for 2013 in case some decide they want to play softball after sitting out a year. #

NEWS FROM MAY 14 GENERAL MEETING

WANTED: MORE PLAYERS!!! MORE VOLUNTEERS!!!

The woes of finding enough players to fully stock the Golden Seniors Softball Club's Thursday night league continue to occupy much time and effort for club leaders, who have issued yet another call for more players to sign up.

It also is becoming even more painfully clear that there needs to be more members with a spirit of volunteering for the greater good of the club.

With no waiting list to utilize, L-5 has one team that has, through injuries, etc., has dropped to six (pretty good) players and has to operate with a replacement player for seven, and two substitutes off other teams to play with nine, using three outfielders instead of four. Player Agent Linda McCollum-Greene told the May 14 general meeting that "somehow we need to get some subs. Thursday night is the hardest hit, but Wednesday night will be next."

Bill Hill, former club president who is recovering from injuries, said he'd sign up for L-5 if he could have a courtesy runner, but, seriously, he thought he could find at least three players who didn't renew because they objected to the \$20 late fee. Since they have been removed from the club roster, they could be treated as new signups, and thus not have to pay a late fee, it was noted. Also, since the season is well over a month along, the 2012 fees would be pro-rated.

The club only recently learned that the Softball Complex had signed a contract to host the big high school girls' softball CIF championships starting the week of May 20, so all Golden Seniors games at the complex were canceled. This causes a two-week break for Golden Seniors games at the Complex as there are no club games May 29-31 due to the conflict with the Rock 'N' Reno tournament.

The club's Board of Directors expects to adopt new procedures for the 2013 season to encourage more timely signups, including a system that does not work against multi-league players who find themselves locked out of the preseason drafts for fourth leagues that they want to join, according to Club President Tom Sansone. (More on this as the board finalizes what it has in mind.) In this year's player renewal priority system, some "iron man" players were put on waiting lists for fourth leagues. "We'll fix that for next year," Sansone said.

The board also voted to have the scoring plate moved from eight feet to a minimum of 11 feet from the strike matt plate, an added safety move recommended by a player. Overall, the decision to use a scoring plate and the new no-running zone seems to be working well, according to comment at the meeting. Managers still need to coach their players on the base-running rules, noting that failure to step on the scoring plate is an out. A triple play for such an infraction occurred in a L-1 game, it was noted.

Other notes from the meeting:

EMERGENCY ID BAG TAGS. Player Agent Linda McCollum-Greene wants all players to know that if they do not have an ID tag, upon which vital emergency

contact and medical information can be written, with the tag affixed to a player's equipment bag, please contact her at 391-5559. These tags have been used in recent years to replace the forms that were distributed to managers for their players and also kept in the club's "crash cart." The club, concerned that such personal information warrants secure custodial care, no longer circulates this information to managers and is shredding paper copies that were once kept in the "crash cart" that contains the club's defibrillator.

Linda also notes that someone lost sun glasses and should contact the scorekeeper of their games to claim ownership.

Sponsors. First VP Dick Latimer said all current sponsors except the Old Hornets have paid their fees for 2012 and he has already begun working on 2013. Two sponsors that have paid for second teams, Espanol Italian Restaurant and Avalon Hearing Centers, will have their second teams shirts prepared for 2013. (It should be recognized that Dick has continued his quest for sponsors while recovering from a stroke that has paralyzed one side of his body. His speech was much improved at the May 14 meeting. Club members expressed their thanks for Dick's dedication during these hard times.)

Latimer also announced at the meeting that he wants to launch a sponsor recognition feature in the newsletter/website where GSSCS members can provide testimonials to good experiences patronizing club sponsors. If the club expects sponsors to continue helping the club, members must reciprocate, he said. That is how it works!!!

Safety Coordinator. The club is still in need of a volunteer to serve as safety coordinator. The former coordinator, Curtis Holcomb, was elected club commissioner. Anyone out there wearing a red hat would seem to be a good fit for this extremely important position.

Hotline Operator. Callers to the club's hotline will hear the voice of Trudy Smartt, who has volunteered to take over from Don Shank, who performed admirably in the position for a number of years. (See story in the April Dugout Chatter.)

Club Data Base Keeper. President Sansone said Henry Low, assistant secretary and L-1 commissioner, has informed him that he wants to step down as the keeper of the club's computerized data base. Sansone is looking for a volunteer for this very important, behind-the-scenes position.

Club Meeting Schedule. Sansone said the meeting schedule for the rest of the year is set: the second Monday nights of July and August at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard. There is no general meeting in June. The September general meeting is held in conjunction with the annual picnic and playoffs at Howe Park. Nominations for club offices (board of directors) are made at the July meeting and the election is in August, so the new board can be sworn in at the September meeting in time for the Oct. 1 beginning of the new fiscal year.

Nominating Committee. John Mizerak has agreed to chair the nominating committee again this year, with help from Dave Vargo (and perhaps others if interested). Contact John (332-5511) or Dave (689-7061) if interested in a leadership position or know of someone to recommend. (E-mail: dvargo@frontiernet.net).

Team Pictures. Lou Coppola plans to begin shooting team photos during the first week of June. Members who want a photo are asked to pay \$3. The club provides a mounted team photo to team sponsors.

RiverCats Tickets. As a season ticket holder, Coppola is able to pass on savings to others that allow savings of \$4 per ticket on week days and \$5 on weekends. Thus, for \$16 a ticket, through Lou or any other season ticket holder, you can buy a flexible ticket that can be exchanged for any date. Contact Lou for details.
444-6138. #

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2011-12

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654
First Vice President **Dick Latimer**
363-9555 (Responsible for team
sponsorships.)
Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ...
989-4722 (Responsible for team
uniforms.)
Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308
Secretary **Matt Tedrow** ... 515-0451
Player Agent **Linda McCollum-
Greene** ... 391-5559 (Responsible for
player applications, player substitutes,
waiting lists.)
Club Commissioner **Curtis
Holcomb** ...600-6065 (Responsible for
enforcement of playing rules, oversees
league commissioners.)

TELEPHONE HOTLINE

Club Answering Machine
(managed by Trudy Smartt)
491-1721 for meeting news and
field conditions.
Phone or Address Changes:
Henry Low 391-3938
Player Applications: Linda
McCollum-Greene 391-5559
Sunshine & Health: Trudy
Smartt 973-8269
GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:
456-1500
Safety: Coordinator
appointment pending
Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138
Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach,
editor 422-2500
(coachrwr@comcast.net)
Planning: Merritt Davis,
393-7160