

DUGOUT CHATTER

On the Internet: www.gsscs.org ... GSSC Hotline for Meeting Info: 491-1721

REMINDER: TURN IN 2010 PLAYER APPLICATIONS!!!

PLAYER AGENT TOM SANSONE REMINDS GOLDEN SENIORS TO GET THEIR RENEWAL APPLICATIONS IN THE MAIL. AS OF DEC. 4, HE REPORTED ABOUT 250 RENEWALS HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND "WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. WE HAVE ABOUT 50% OF OUR RENEWALS STILL TO COME IN." THE DEADLINE TO PRESERVE LEAGUE PREFERENCE SENIORITY IS DEC. 15. HE SAID FIVE NEW PLAYERS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR 2010 SO FAR. CHECK THE CLUB WEB SITE FOR PLAYER APPLICATIONS.

PLANNING COMMITTEE. Mindful of President Ray Mendonsa's continued emphasis on the Board of Directors role as a facilitator for GSSC member-backed proposals, the (*SEE PAGE 6*)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 3 -- ARNOLD DISNEY SAYS CPR TRAINING HELPED HIM SAVE DICK HORKEY'S LIFE

PAGE 4 -- NEW FOR 2010: LEAGUE SAFETY CHIEFS

PAGE 4 -- THANK YOU TO MICKEY AND FREDDIE

PAGE 5 -- OLIVAS AND GEORGE CITED AS MOST VALUABLE & IMPROVED

FOUR JOIN .800 BATTING AVERAGE CLUB IN 2009

This past season saw four hitters join the Golden Seniors' "Eight-hundred Club," with batting averages of at least .800: Doug Peterson, Rich Edwards, Don Jackson and Rich Ganas.

They bring to nine the number of GSSC members matching or exceeding the magical .800 mark with sufficient at-bats to qualify, between 2006 and 2009. (*SEE PAGE 2*)

NOTE: SEE THE LEAGUE LEADERS FEATURE, UPDATED FOR 2009 BY DAVE VARGO, ON THE CLUB WEB SITE (WWW.GSSCS.ORG).

.800 HITTERS AND OTHER LEAGUE BATTING LEADERS FOR 2009

(From Page 1)

Peterson's .828 average in L6 threatened the highest club average in any GSSC league over the four-year period: .829 by Bill Christian (L4, 2008). Edwards hit .817 in L2, Jackson hit .812 in L4, and Ganas hit .800 in L5.

(Editor's note: Christian's .829 average included playoff games; for the regular season that year, he batted .847. See Dugout Chatter of Nov-Dec 2008.)

Other league batting average leaders in 2009 were Norm Blackwell Jr., .795 in L3 and Jim Stinson, .749 in L7. (L1 does not maintain individual statistics.) Runners-up were Bill Enos, .761 in L2; Steve Casarez, .742 in L3; Curtis Williams, .774 in L4; Monte Miller, .779 in L5; Bill Enos, .776 in L6, and Don Wall, .662 in L7.

Demontre Davis and Hal Johnson tied for the L4 home run lead with 7, one more than L3 leader Emilio Lobato. De Davis also led L5 with five homers, making him the overall club leader with 12.

Bill Nevis paced L2 with five homers, while Doug Peterson led L6 with four. Jack Wabinga's five homers were good for a runner-up finish in the L3 home run race. In L2, Larry Davis and Bill McMahon, 3 each, trailed Nevis.

Henry Low (2) led L7. Ray Crews was second with one. In L6, Tom Best, Noel Maldonado and John Moran had two each. With four each, Jeff Massingale and ET Minor finished second to De Davis.

Monte Miller paced the club and L4 with 64 runs batted in, seven more than Don Jackson. Miller also led L5 with 52, one more than Rich Ganas. Jack Wabinga and Al Raydon shared the L3 RBI lead at 46. Doug Peterson (50) and teammate Tom Best (38) led L6. George Garcia (37) and Larry Davis (35) led L2. Henry Low (33) and John Figlar (30) paced L7.

(Thanks to scorekeepers Sandy Begg and Collette Barnes for compiling the stats.) #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH

Life Member **Harry Sutton**, who was 91, passed away on Oct. 7. Harry joined the Golden Seniors in 1980 and played until he was 85. Besides his Golden Senior leagues, Harry played a lot of outfield for travel teams. "He was a good fielder, good hitter and a good friend to all who knew him," said George Hodsdon. Harry played on the Sacramento Gold national champions of 1983, the first team of Golden Seniors to win a national title, according to Bill Turner, who added: "He made many friends in the club and was a credit to this organization."

Stan Dupzyk, a former Golden Senior, died on Oct. 30. He played 16 years in weekly leagues. The WWII veteran was a former varsity baseball player at Christian Brothers.

Lora Wilson, wife of Monday player Don Wilson, died Thanksgiving Day. Her services were scheduled for Dec. 12.

E.J. Shaw, 18-year-old grandson of Ruby and Howard Shaw, was one of three teen-agers killed in a car crash on Salmon Fall Road in El Dorado County, as reported Dec. 1 in *The Sacramento Bee*. Howard, a life member of the club, plays on Monday mornings.

Bob Dillon's wife, Debbie, suffered a stroke.

Don Phillips (L3) and his National Guard unit have been ordered to Iraq.

#

HORKEY GETS PACEMAKER; PLANS TO BE READY TO MANAGE IN 2010 -- THANKS TO DISNEY'S CPR TRAINING

Life Member **Dick Horkey** vows to return to the softball field without his heart skipping a beat -- thanks to a pacemaker and longtime pal **Arnold Disney's** CPR training.

In early November, Horkey collapsed while he and Disney were installing flooring at Dick's sister's home. Disney (also a life member) checked vital signs and called 911, as he had been recently trained to do in a GSSC-sponsored Red Cross course. According to Disney, Dick's heart stopped beating during the ambulance ride and again at the hospital.

Several days later, equipped with a new pacemaker, Horkey was released from the hospital. He and Arnold have been seen together watching Del Campo High School football games. Disney said Horkey, 75, can rejoin his bowling team in January and can return to GSSC action in the new year.

Arnold, who will be 82 in 2010, said he will honor Dick's request to be his L1 assistant manager in 2010. Disney, recuperating from knee surgery nine months ago, will mark his 25th anniversary as a Golden Senior in 2010, when Horkey will be in his 24th year.

Disney will be among those Golden Seniors wearing red hats in 2010. These people have been certified to administer CPR and AED (defibrillator) through Red Cross courses arranged by the Golden Seniors.

"I don't even have my red hat yet," Disney said, adding that Safety Chairman Jerry Jodice has promised to get him one in time for the 2010 season. He also said that someone questioned why he was devoting a day to be trained. "I'm sure glad I did. I really believe Dick is alive today because I took that course" and knew what to do.

(Contact Jodice at 349-8949 for information on safety training.) #

Mickey and Freddie: Thank You!!!

Two recently departing GSSC board members have earned kudos for their contributions to the club: Secretary **Mickey Schleicher** and **Freddy Miller**, who stepped in as interim club commissioner in 2009.

Schleicher, who has moved his primary residence to Las Vegas, could not seek re-election as club secretary, a position in which he served so well. He edited the club's rule book, an enormous chore.

Miller was acting club commissioner from June to September (when Dave Vargo was sidelined for knee surgeries) and continued serving as the club's chief umpire.

Mickey and Freddie: *Thank you!*
#

NEW FOR 2010: SAFETY COORDINATORS

From Safety Chairman Jerry Jodice

Club Commissioner Bob Smartt requests each league commissioner to appoint a League Safety Coordinator who will work with their league managers to insure that the club's safety standards are met and enforced each softball season. Furthermore:

- Safety Coordinators must contact league team managers to see that each team has one or more "Safety Crew" members to assist during the season.
- Safety Crew members must meet with their League Safety Coordinator to review procedures and assure that all necessary supplies are in the Safety Cart BEFORE the season begins.
- League Safety Coordinators may wish to recommend to the Club President the person they can best work with as Club Safety Chairman for the following year. #

75+ LEAGUE IS PLANNED

From Larry Campbell

A new lower-cost league for age 75+ players will be offered March-September 2010 on Thursday mornings at Carmichael Park. The goal is to enable our oldest players to stay active in social recreation for as long as our old bodies will allow, with good humor and group fun. Older fielders should allow batters to get more hits and have more fun. If this 2010 league is a success, GSSCS will consider adding it as a new league 8 in 2011. We need time to organize, select managers, draft teams, get uniforms, etc. If interested in playing in a 75+ league, please RSVP as soon as possible, giving your name, age in 2010, & phone number either by Email to llcampbell@netzero.com or by clear phone message for old ears at 916-485-4843 even if you signed a petition earlier, because the details above are now known.

(Editor: It was determined at the October club meeting that a GSSC committee would evaluate the 75+ league play next year and recommend whether it could become a GSSC-governed league in 2011.)

L7 (70+) will play within their league in 2010; no games with (60+) L6 -- an experiment that did not work well.

Off-season practice games for members occur at 9AM on Tuesday and Thursday at Carmichael Park #3. The first 22 players form two practice teams. Additional players take batting practice on field 4 and form a team to play a second game with the winners of the first game. Batting Practice for only 70+ members occurs at Howe Park #3.

#



The oldest playing member of the club, Dinny Watson, hustles to first base for Nielsen Real Estate Appraisal in 2009 L1 action. Dinny turns 90 in January 2010. He joined the GSSC in 1988. Note: Player in this photo was misidentified as Denny Moore in the Sept-Oct issue. (Lou Coppola photo)

LEAGUE 1 MVP AND MIP HONORS

In League 1 during 2009, Alfredo “Freddie” Olivas was the most valuable player and Chuck George was the most improved player, according to polling of managers.

Olivas, a pitcher for George Hodsdon’s Merrill Bookkeeping, is regarded as an outstanding pitcher, hitter and competitor. “He’s a smart ballplayer. He’s a good guy, good player, good everything,” said Ernie Kidwell, co-manager of Mimi’s Cafe. Olivas, 74, has been a member of the Golden Seniors since 2005.

George played a number of positions for Mimi’s Cafe and performed well at all of them, according to Kidwell, who managed Mimi’s with John Chatfield. George, 81, joined the Golden Seniors in 1992 and is a life member. #

DUGOUT CHATTER SCHEDULE

AS WE HAVE DONE IN RECENT YEARS, THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY ISSUES WILL BE MAILED TO MEMBERS UNLESS THEY HAVE REQUESTED TO SAVE THE CLUB POSTAGE AND READ THEM ONLINE. MARCH-THRU-AUGUST ISSUES WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT PLAYING FIELDS FOR THOSE WHO LACK INTERNET ACCESS. THE DUGOUT CHATTER IS ONLINE AT WWW.GSSCS.ORG

-- RON ROACH, EDITOR . [Those who prefer to read the DC online and not have it mailed to them should contact Henry Low (391-3938) to be removed from the DC mailing list.] #

PLANNING: FROM PAGE 1
board, at its November meeting, decided to form a Planning Committee to consider ideas for growth and structure of the GSSC. Primary members of the committee, besides Mendonsa, are Merritt Davis, Hank Fontes, George Hodsdon, Dave Vargo and Don Wall. Alternates are Jim Andres and Norm Blackwell Sr. The chairman and vice chairman will be selected from these members.

Club 2010 Meeting Schedule: Jan. 4 General Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 2784 Stockton Blvd., also the site for general meetings on Feb. 1, March 1, July 12 and Aug. 9. The September general meeting is in conjunction with the annual picnic. #

CHECK OUT THE GOLDEN SENIORS WEB SITE FOR MORE NEWS AND PHOTOS:

WWW.GSSCS.ORG

SHORT HOPS

Lost & Found ... Practices. Casper Greif 381-0124 reports that "a couple of articles of clothing" have been found after players have departed Tuesday practices at Carmichael Park. "Joe Smith has washed 'em; anyone want to claim 'em?" Weather and holidays permitting, practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays (9 a.m.) -- arrive earlier for batting practice and practice game team assignments. #

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ZORRACE INC. #

MORE SHORT HOPS: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. Dugout Chatter Editor Ron Roach told the Board of Directors at the November meeting that he wants to energize the club's Information Technology Committee during 2010. A goal is to increase membership involvement in publication of the Dugout Chatter and operation of the club's site on the Internet. Interested members should contact Roach at coachrwr@comcast.net or 916-422-2500.

SPONSOR NEWS: Bill Hill of **California Energy Services**, sponsor of two GSSC teams, noted that the club's web site had incorrect address and phone number for his company. It is 1300 36th St., Sacramento, 95816, and 916-804-2243. "We do vinyl replacement windows, heating and air, vinyl siding and wall/attic insulation."

SPONSOR NEWS: Bill Beck, a Monday Day (League 1) player, called the Dugout Chatter to offer an unsolicited testimonial for excellent work and service performed by a GSSC sponsor, **Overhead Door Co. of Sacramento**. Beck said he was so impressed that he felt obligated to spread the word among members who may need garage door work.

WINTER PRACTICE SCHEDULE

AS OF OCT. 1, THE PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR CARMICHAEL PARK IS 9 A.M. TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. ARRIVE EARLY FOR SIGNUPS.

FOR PLAYERS 70 AND OVER, THE PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR HOWE AVENUE PARK (FIELD #3) IS 9 A.M. TUESDAY AND FRIDAY ALL YEAR LONG. WHEN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS, STARTING TIME GOES TO 1 P.M. TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WARMER AFTERNOONS.
#

SPONSOR NEWS: George Hodsdon: "I have used Dumont Pest Control, Mimi's Cafe, Overhead Door, Sports Leisure (just got back from Niagara Falls on one of their trips), Espanol Restaurant, Mike Daugherty Chevy but am trying to avoid East Lawn.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH. This notice may be too late for this year's Christmas lunch (Dec. 7), but keep in mind that it has been organized annually. George Hodsdon said while most of those attending are L1 players and guests, the event is open to all Golden Seniors. This year's event was at Luau Gardens on Arden Way from 11:30 to about 1:30 and cost \$10.50 per person, including tax and tip. An RSVP was requested to George or Rosemarie Hodsdon (481-9304). Maybe you can RSVP for 2010. #

THE NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER WILL BE PUBLISHED IN JANUARY -- AFTER THE JAN. 4 GENERAL MEETING. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND AT 7:30 P.M., AT THE VFW HALL AT 2784 STOCKTON BLVD.

RULES COMMITTEE FOR 2010 IS BEING FORMED

Club Commissioner Bob Smartt is recruiting the club's Rules Committee for 2010. Each league is to be represented on the panel.

SPONSORSHIPS

Know of a prospective team sponsor? Call Fred Fischer (685-5044).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2008-2009

President **Ray Mendonsa** ... 686-3894

First Vice President **Fred Fischer** ... 685-5044
(Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President **Pete Ward** ... 989-4722
(Responsible for team uniforms.)

Treasurer **Glen Cole** ... 966-4561

Secretary **George Lamb** ... (530) 681-8070

Player Agent **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654
(Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.)

Club Commissioner **Bob Smartt** ... 973-8269
(Responsible for league rules, oversees all league commissioners.)

NEXT GSSC GENERAL MEETING: JAN. 4, 7:30 P.M. AT VFW HALL ON STOCKTON BLVD.

TELEPHONE HOTLINES

Club Answering Machine

(managed by Don Shank):
491-1721 for meeting news
and field conditions.

Phone or Address Changes:

Henry Low 391-3938

Player Applications: Tom
Sansone 686-1654

Sunshine & Health: Trudy
Smartt 973-8269

GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:

456-1500

Safety: Jerry Jodice
349-8949

Entertainment: Lou Coppola
444-6138

Dugout Chatter: Ron
Roach, editor 422-2500
(coachrwr@comcast.net)

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