

# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) -- NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011

## MONTE MILLER'S .844 IS HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE IN LAST SIX YEARS OF GOLDEN SENIORS PLAY

### MILLER LEADS CLUB IN 2011 WITH .844 BATTING AVERAGE, HIGHEST IN PAST SIX YEARS FOR ALL GSSCS LEAGUES

Monte Miller hit .844 to lead all Golden Seniors in batting during 2011 and in the process registered the highest GSSCS average over the past six years. In League 5 (Thursday nights), Miller was 65 for 77 as his average topped the .833 of Emilio Lobato in L-3 during the 2010 season. (Scorekeepers have kept batting statistics since 2006.)

Miller was one only three players to break the .800 mark in 2011: Shawn Rogers hit .818 in L-5, and Lobato paced L-4 with an .809 mark. It was the third season that Miller has hit .800 or better (he also hit .800 in 2007 and .826 in 2008). No other player has done this more than twice, with Lobato joining Rich Edwards and Don Jackson as two-timers. Just 13 players have hit at least .800 in the past six years for a combined total of 18 times.

Other .800 hitters since 2006, according to statistics maintained by scorekeepers Colette Barnes and Sandy Begg: John Lack (.818 in L-2 in 2007), Bob Del Chiaro (.817 in L-4 in 2007, Dave Vargo (.800 in L-2, 2008), and Rich Ganas, .800 in L-5, 2009.

Doug Peterson hit .828 in L-6 (2009), which was bested by Bill Christian's .829 in 2008. Besides Lobato in 2010, four others were in the .800 club that season: Dale Stykel (.809 in L-7), Jack Wabinga (.808 in L-3), Edwards (.805 in L-2) and Jackson (.800 in L-5).

(Note: L-1 does not maintained individual statistics.)

The club's top home run hitter in 2011 was Bill Greene (8 in L-6), while Joe Cors had 7 in L-2 and Jeff Massengale had 7 in L-5. Note: Extra-base hits were not counted in L-3 and L-5 while the scorekeeper was seriously ill for some games in July.

The club-wide season high for homers in one league is 10, established by A.J. Petruzzini of L-6 in 2007, when Bobby Flink had nine in L-2. Monta Litle and Rich Ganas hold the record for L-5 homers with nine, in 2007 and 2008, respectively, and Litle also holds the L-4 mark, nine, in 2007.

Greene had at least 13 homers in 2011 -- 8 in L-6, 3 in L-4, and one each in L-3 and L-5. The club record for multi-league homers in one year is 18, set by Monta Litle for two leagues in 2007. (See Page 2)

## NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

7:30 p.m.  
JANUARY 9  
2012

**VFW Hall, 2784  
Stockton Blvd.**

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## GOLDEN SENIORS BATTING LEADERS -- From Page 1

The club's top RBI man in 2011 appears to be Demontro Davis, who had 61 in L-5, only three fewer than Monte Miller's club record set in 2009 in L-4. It is not known how many RBI Davis had in July games when the statistic was not recorded.

League-by-league leaders 2006-2011 (club leaders in bold face):

L-2 -- Batting Average: .818 John Lack, 2007; .817 Rich Edwards, 2009; .805 Edwards, 2010; .800 Dave Vargo, 2008; .793 Don Bess, 2011. Base Hits: 60 Merv Mill, 2007; 56 Vic Torres, 2008. HR: 9 Bob Flink, 2007; 7 Joe Cors, 2011; 5 Bill Nevis, 2009. Dave Vargo, Vidal Franco, Ron Peck, all 2007. RBI: 47 Joe Saiz, 2007; 44 Larry Davis, 2011; 41 Don Bess, 2011; 40 Flink and Torres, 2007; Cors and Jerry Horton 2011.

L-3 -- Batting Average: .833 Emilio Lobato, 2010; .808 Jack Wabinga, 2010; .795 Norm Blackwell Jr., 2009; .754, Lobato, 2011. Base Hits: 58 Blackwell, 2009; 57 Wayne Yamamura, 2006. HR: 8 Barry Mortimeyer, 2007; 5 Rich Del Chiaro, 2006; A.J. Petruzzi, 2007; Dave Vargo, 2006; Emilio Lobato, 2009; Jack Wabinga, 2009. RBI: 60 Steve Casarez, 2010; 58 Steve Schuler, 2011; 55 M.R. Evans, 2006; 51 Mortimeyer, 2007.

L-4 -- Batting Average: .829 Bill Christian, 2008; .826 Monte Miller, 2008; .817 Bob Del Chiaro, 2007; .812 Don Jackson, 2009; .809 Lobato, 2011. Base Hits: **66 Allen Riker, 2009**; 63 Christian, 2008; 60 Emilio Lobato and Bill Greene, 2010. HR: 9 Monta Litle, 2007; 8 Lobato, 2007; 6 David Raydon, 2010; 5 Lobato, 2010; 5 Lobato and Dave Raydon, 2011. RBI: **64 Monte Miller, 2009**; 59 Miller, 2008.

L-5 -- Batting Average: **.844 Monte Miller, 2011**; .818 Shawn Rogers, 2011; .800 Don Jackson, 2010; .800 Rich Ganas, 2009; .779 Bob Del Chiaro, 2008; .761 Mike Swanson, 2011; .760, George Lamb, 2011. Base Hits: **66 Allen Riker, 2010**; 65 Monte Miller, 2011; 64 Larry Lagomarsino, 2010; 59 George Lamb, 2006, Riker, 2006, Dave Vargo, 2006. HR: 9 Monta Litle 2007; 9 Rich Ganas, 2008; 7 Gary Holmes, 2010, and Jeff Massengale, 2011\*. RBI: 61 Demontro Davis, 2011\*; 60 Monta Litle, 2006; 55 Rich Ganas, 2007. \*Several games of RBI and extra-base stats missing from July when scorekeeper was ill.

L-6 -- Batting Average: .828 Doug Peterson, 2009; .789 Rich Edwards, 2011; .784 Bob Cummings, 2007; .755 Peterson, 2010. Base Hits: 58 Dave Vargo, 2008; 55 Peterson, 2008; 55 Bob Fenton, 2009. HR: **10 A.J. Petruzzi, 2007**; 8 Bill Greene, 2011; 5 Bob Cummings, 2007. RBI: 53 Peterson and Vargo, 2008. (Note: L-6 began in 2007 for players 60 and older.)

L-7 -- Batting Average: .809 Dale Stykel, 2010; .749 Jim Stinson, 2009; .742 Henry Low, 2009; Base Hits: 56 Stinson, 2009; 49 Don Wall, 2009. HR: 2 Low, 2009. RBI: 33 Low, 2009; 30 John Figlar, 2009. (Note: L-7 began in 2009 for players 70 or older. It was not held in 2011.)

League Leaders for 2011:

L-2 -- Batting Average: Don Bess .793, Russ Barnes .753, Dave Avery .745. Hits: Barnes 55, Larry Davis 50, Jerry Horton 49. RBI: Larry Davis 44, Bess 41, Joe Cors and Jerry Horton 40. Home Runs: Cors 7, Larry Davis and Bess 4.

L-3 -- Emilio Lobato .754, Al Raydon .746, Jim Powell .736. Hits: Bill Greene 62,

Powell and Al Raydon 53. RBI: Steve Schuler 58, Bill McMahon 44, Bill Greene 43.  
HR: M.R. Evans 4, Lobato, Schuler and Rich Casarez 3.

L-4 -- Emilio Lobato .809, Dennis Garrett .778, Dick Reisinger Jr. .746. Hits: Garrett 56, Lobato 55, Bill Christian 53. RBI: Lobato 46, Reisinger 45, Terry Urban 40. HR: Lobato and Dave Raydon, 5; Steve Smith, Doug Gedestad, Bill McMahon and Dan Gunsalus 4; Hal Johnson and Bill Greene 3.

L-5 -- Monte Miller .844, Shawn Rogers .818, Mike Swanson .761. Hits: Miller 65, Darrel Watson 64, Emilio Lobato 62. RBI: Demontro Davis 61, Markus Kirkland 57. Bill Conwell 52. HR: Jeff Massengale 7, Markus Kirkland and Lyman Rose 6; Rich Ganas, Armando Hidalgo and Gary Holmes 4.

L-6 -- Rich Edwards .789, Dave Bristol .778, Doug Peterson .765. Hits: Edwards 56, Peterson 52, Chuck Knutson and Arnold Bray 51. RBI: Bill Greene 51, Peterson 49, Bill McMahon 39. HR: Bill Greene 8, Don Bess 5, Joe Cors and Bob Jones 4.

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## SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Life Member **Robert Q. Cook** of Acampo, who turned 91 on Oct. 10, passed away on Oct. 23, reported his daughter-in-law, Janet Cook. Bob joined the club in June 1986 and played through 2006 on Monday mornings, driving in from Elk Grove, recalls George Hodsdon. "He was a very good pitcher and played on travel teams that went around the world. He had many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Thank you, Bob, for all your efforts to make Golden Seniors what it is today." Janet Cook, in an email, wrote: "He was a proud member of the Golden Seniors and played until he was 85. He went around the world with the traveling team. He was a great father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and wonderful man. He loved his softball days and proudly always told others he played."

**Frank Sansone**, father of GSSCS President Tom Sansone, passed away on Oct. 21. Mr. Sansone, 89, of Elk Grove, and Tom had the same birthdate and celebrated together every year.

**Bobby Dipple**, L-1 player, had a full knee replacement. George Hodsdon reported that Bobby is rehabbing at home and doesn't know if he will be completely healed in time to sign up as a player for the 2012 season.

**Pete Ward**, the club's second VP, almost sawed off two fingers on his left hand while cutting up some kindling with a table saw. He says he expects to be ready to play by next spring, but his winter ball plans had to be scrapped for a second straight year due to a "handyman" mishap. He fell off a ladder last winter. Meantime, he is busy getting club uniform shirts and hats ready for 2012 as well as placing an order for game balls.

**Fred Olivas** is home from the hospital after his five-way bypass surgery.

In memory of **Billy Beck, Dick Gustin and Bob Schwan**, life members who passed away in 2011, a donor who chooses to be anonymous has given \$150 to the club general fund.

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## **URGENT: SIGNUPS ARE NEEDED FOR L-7**

Larry Campbell, commissioner of the club's League 7, is the contact for players 67 and older interested in playing in a four-team league planned for 10:30 on Tuesday mornings at the Complex. Campbell can be reached at 485-4843.

**(Editor's Note: Call Larry ASAP as the club's board of directors on Oct. 17 decided to set a Jan. 9 deadline for L-7 signups to make a determination on the viability of the league for 2012.)**

L-7, initially formed in 2009, also played in 2010, but was suspended for 2011 when there were not enough signups for a four-team league. Campbell said he is hopeful that there are a number of players 67, 68 and 69 who feel that L-6 (also at 10:30 on Tuesdays for players 60 and older) is too fast and would rather play in a league with older players. Campbell said that those who sign up for L-7 could revert to L-6 or another league, or get refunds, if there are insufficient L-7 signups. He said that inviting players 68 and 69 would be intended to make up for players 70 and above who choose to play in L-6.

Campbell also has organized a league for players 75 and older. He said this league has played successfully at Carmichael Park on Thursday mornings. It is not affiliated with the Golden Seniors Softball Club but he said he is grateful that the club has made surplus GSSCS jerseys available for these teams.

Campbell also said women 45 and older are welcome to play in the Thursday Carmichael Park league. It is only fitting, he said, that women be invited to participate because when the Golden Seniors got under way in the 1970s, they played women's teams. #

## **SAFETY REPORT: TRAINING WILL BE OFFERED IN FEBRUARY; NEW SAFETY COORDINATOR NEEDED**

The club is scheduling a safety training session for February, as previously announced by Curtis Holcomb, who is helping to recruit a successor as club safety coordinator. Curtis was elected Club Commissioner in August. Anyone interested in serving on the club's Safety Committee: Contact Curtis at 600-6065.

A number of previously certified CPR/AED providers need to take refresher courses to retain Red Cross certification, and the club needs additional volunteers for the "red hat" group. The training is financed by the club. Stay tuned for more details. #

## **LIFE MEMBERS WILL BE HONORED AT JANUARY 9 MEETING**

Come out to the Jan. 9 general meeting (7:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard) and help honor 11 inductees as life members of the club. Qualifications for life membership: Age 75 and continuous membership for 15 years OR age 80 and continuous membership for 10 years. If for some reason a player can't play, the player can maintain unbroken membership by becoming a NON-PLAYING MEMBER with significantly reduced annual dues.

*THE 11 TO BE HONORED ARE LEWIS ABRAMS, LEO CURRY JR., BRYANT DESSEM, CASPER GREIF, ROBERT HAVRILLA, JERRY KANENAGA, RAMIRO LUNA, BOB NEVIS, AUGUST NIKLAS, VIC SPAHN AND WAYNE VICKERY.*

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# **SPONSORS SIGNED UP AND PAID FOR 2012**

Dick Latimer, 1st VP for sponsors, lists these club sponsors as already signed up and paid for 2012:

**Executive Limousine**

**Greater Sacramento Softball Association (GSSA)**

**Harper Properties**

**Lasereyes.com**

**L & S Surveys**

**Nielsen Real Estate**

**Overhead Door Company of Sacramento Inc.**

**Reinwald's Health & Dental Insurance**

**Show Biz Productions**

**Storyhat**

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 Latimer at 363-9555.

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# SHORT HOPS & LONG BOUNCES

## NEW 2012 LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS

Henry Low has agreed to succeed George Hodsdon as L-1 commissioner, effective after the player draft for 2012 teams Hodsdon will serve as assistant commissioner.

Dave Vargo has stepped up to serve as L-2 commissioner, succeeding Curtis Holcomb, who has been elected as club commissioner.

**RULES COMMITTEE.** Led by co-chairs Jerry Nevis and Dave Tanner, the club's Rules Committee met on Nov. 14 and made a number of recommendations to the board. The board decided to seek more information from the committee before considering such proposals as eliminating the run-through rule, allowing sliding, eliminating the automatic out zone between third and home while still calling out any runner who interferes with the catcher.

Among other things, the committee generally wants the club to substitute default rules as Senior Softball USA instead of ASA, which caters to younger players. The impact will be fewer GSSCS rule variations and greatly reduced size of the rules pamphlet, according to Dave Vargo's recap of the more than four-hour meeting attended by four league commissioners, the chief umpire and players from all seven leagues.

Chief Umpire Tom Bussey advised the Rules Committee that ASA has decided to sanction such high-performance bats as the Miken Ultra II -- but limited their use to games in which a lesser-performance ball is required. While Sacramento Softball Complex officials were to be queried on this development, Golden Seniors board members on Nov 14 expressed doubt that the development would be popular with club members who would rather not play with so-called "mush balls" with much softer 300 compression, even if allowed to use hot bats. #

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT.** Player Agent Linda McCollum-Greene reported on Nov. 14 that 143 player applications -- three of them new -- have been received -- 50 for L-1, 27 for L-2, 26 for L-3, 14 for L-4, 15 for L-5, 17 for L-6 and 8 for L-7.

Remember, the player applications for 2012 are on the club Web site at [www.gsscs.org](http://www.gsscs.org) #

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## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: DEC. 5**

For Monday Morning players, wives, sweethearts, retirees and old friends, the annual Christmas Luncheon will be at China Buffet, 5623 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights, on Monday, Dec. 5, 11:30 to 1:30. The price is \$11 (pay at the luncheon). RSVP to Rory Hodsdon at 481-9304. #

## **“SILENT AUCTION” SET FOR JANUARY MEETING**

Organized by George Hodsdon, the club will host a “silent auction” at the Jan. 9 general meeting for softball gear -- gloves, bats, bat bags -- that club members no longer need. So come and bid on something that you can use. Winning bidders must pay by check or cash. When a donor provides an item, it will be tagged with an attached bid sheet. Note: If you have an item or items to donate but won't be attending, call Hodsdon at 481-9304 and arrange a pickup. Additional note: While Hodsdon envisions a 50/50 split of proceeds with the club, the board had not made such a determination as of this writing. #

## **FALL/WINTER BATTING PRACTICES ARE SCHEDULED**

Batting practice (Tuesdays and Fridays) for Monday Morning League One players now starts at 1 p.m. at Howe Avenue Park for the winter months. Carmichael Park practice, generally for the “younger players,” starts at 9 a.m. (Tuesdays and Thursdays) at the park's Field #3. (Weather and holidays permitting.) Contact for Carmichael Park practices: Ernie Kidwell, (916) 481-9304. #

**GSSCS “BUSINESS CARDS” ARE PRINTED.** Club President Tom Sansone has had 2,000 wallet-size cards printed with details about the Golden Seniors and contact information that can be handed to those who express interest in joining the club. The cards can be picked up by members at general meetings. #

### **TEAM MANAGERS ARE NEEDED**

Club Commissioner Curtis Holcumb is urging members who want to manage teams in 2012 to step forward and call him at 600-6065.

## **CLUB “HOTLINE” SOURCE FOR NEWS, INFORMATION**

Operated by Don Shank, 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. #

# **Golden Seniors 2011 Sponsors**

## **PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS**

(\* = New Sponsor)

AMERICAN MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

ARNOLD PROPERTIES

AVALON HEARING

BERTOLUCCI'S BODY AND FENDER SHOP

C&C PLUMBING

CALIFORNIA ENERGY SERVICES

COTTONWOOD ESTATES

DUMONT PEST CONTROL

EAST LAWN, INC.

ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT

\*EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE

GEREMIA POOLS

GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION (GSSA)

\*FUDDRUCKERS

HARPER PROPERTIES

\*JERRY JODICE

JOLLY ROGERS

\*LASEREYES.COM

L&S SURVEYS

LIVINGSTON CONCRETE

MARK WHITE DDS

MERRILL'S BOOKKEEPING & TAX

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NIELSEN REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL

NORCAL JACKETS

OLD HORNETS

OVERHEAD DOOR OF SACRAMENTO

RAMBIT

\*REINWALD'S HEALTH & DENTAL INSURANCE

RE/MAX CENTRAL

\*SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS

SILVER CATS

SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS

VFW POST 67

RICHARD WILL ATTORNEY

WION'S BODY SHOP

\*9TH & X SELF STORAGE

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## PICNIC DAY PLAYOFF GAME SEPT. 24 ACTION PHOTOS



*Harper Properties hitter as seen through the backstop screen in L-2 title game.*

*Manager Howard Toder of Better Softball Bats & Equipment looks for the throw that he easily beat to score in L-6 championship game.*

*(Lou Coppola Photos)*



**NEXT DUGOUT CHATTER: JANUARY 2012.** READ THE DUGOUT CHATTER ONLINE AT [WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://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 OR EVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE PRINTED EDITION ARRIVES VIA SNAIL 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. #

## **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 Don Shank):  
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](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net))

**Planning:** Merritt Davis,  
393-7160