

# DUGOUT CHATTER

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN SENIORS SOFTBALL CLUB OF SACRAMENTO ([WWW.GSSCS.ORG](http://WWW.GSSCS.ORG)) -- APRIL 2013

## HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HAVING TO RUN AN EXTRA 20 FEET FOR AN INSIDE-THE-PARK HOMER?

The game has been changing... improved bats, better balls ... and now, five more feet between the bases.

How do you feel about the switch from 65 feet to 70 feet between bases? This issue will be discussed at the next general meeting, May 13, reports Tom Sansone, GSSCS president, in his April email report to the membership. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 67 hall on Stockton Boulevard.

The distance between the bases was changed by Senior Softball USA. The club decided to begin using SSUSA rules in 2012 unless the club adopts its own rule on a particular subject.

SSUSA has exempted games between teams of players 75 and over from using 70-foot bases. The GSSCS Monday league of players at least 70 has elected to stick with the 65-foot base paths.

Sansone noted that the increase in offense has been dramatic since hotter bats have been allowed in 2010, citing a recent analysis of batting statistics in L-2 on Tuesday mornings for players 60 and older. Batting averages have increased by 45 points for the entire league. Some players have increased their batting averages by over 100 points. And slugging percentages also increased.

Obviously, the extra five feet between bases has resulted in more outs, including double plays. Many runners have been thrown out trying to gain an extra base.

"This change has also allowed the infielders to play back five feet which gives them that fraction of a second more to make a play off one of those hot bats. Yes, the game has changed again but this time in favor of the defense," Sansone wrote in his email.

(See Page 2)

**NEXT GENERAL  
MEETING:  
MAY 13, 2013  
7:30 P.M.  
VFW HALL  
2784 STOCKTON  
BLVD.**

## **IN THIS ISSUE ...**

**Club to discuss  
pros and cons of 70-  
foot base paths at  
May general meeting.**

**Monday Morning  
News: Rain and wind  
play havoc with L-1  
early season schedule.**

**Sunshine & Health  
Report.**

**List of Sponsors.**

**League  
Commissioners for  
2014.**

**Club Contacts.**

## 65 FEET OR 70 FEET ... HOW DO YOU FEEL? (FROM PAGE 1)

“Are these changes good ... or bad? Everyone has an opinion and the club would be interested in hearing yours. ... Think about this change and come to the meeting (May 13) to express your thoughts.

“In the meantime,” Sansone said, “we will play with the 70-foot base paths and experience the impact it has on our game. Only then will we be able to fully discuss the change and determine the club’s ongoing policy.”

Other club news:

Sansone noted that Pete Ward, after resigning as second vice president, has continued to work on getting the uniforms prepared for teams with new sponsors. Ward, who has done a great job as second vice president for many years, said he realized that he could not put the club in a bind to get jerseys for numerous newly sponsored teams. Sansone said he is fully aware of the great job Pete has done and how important his service has been to the club. Ward was a driving force to improve quality of balls and the style of uniform jerseys and hats.

**Forty Sponsors.** Dick Latimer, first vice president, reports that he has gathered enough sponsors for the club’s 40 teams and is already working on adding new sponsors for 2014. Ten new sponsors have been signed up for this year, requiring the printing of team names and numbers on jerseys with colors that fit in so you can tell the teams apart. Sansone said Ward, who used to run an athletic apparel business, prodded the new printer to accelerate the process.

**Contracts** have been signed, Sansone reported. He said the games at Howe Park cost \$52 each while the games at the Complex vary depending on the day or night, ranging from \$57 for each Tuesday day game to \$65 for Tuesday and Wednesday nights and \$91 for Thursday nights. Figure in the costs of umpires and scorekeepers (\$25 and \$12 respectively) and you can see the total cost per game.

**River Cats Tickets.** Call Lou Coppola (444-6138) for information on how you can buy good tickets for River Cats home games for \$5 less than the box office price.

**GSSCS in the News.** Spectrum, a weekly newspaper for seniors, on March 26 ran a front-page article on the start of the Golden Seniors softball season. Jules Morganstern was interviewed for the story and recalled how the club has grown over the years. The author, freelance writer Linda DuBois, said she hopes to dust off her game and become a Golden Senior!!!

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## ***MONDAY MORNING NEWS***

From Henry Low, L-1 Commissioner

Due mostly to weather issues, League One on Monday mornings has gotten off to a slow start for the third year in a row. Our season started on March 25 but we had to use Field 4 at Howe Park, not one that is normally used, for two games as Field 2 was not yet ready for play. Our games on April 1 were rained out and high winds caused cancellation of the April 8 games.

According to L-1 Assistant Commissioner George Hodsdon, this was the first time in 22 years that games were not played due to high winds.

The April 1 games will be made up on June 3, an extra week in the schedule between two rounds of head-to-head play. The games canceled due to wind will not be made up.

We did get our games in on April 15, so at that point in the season, L-1 is only two for four in weeks with games played. But the weather was looking good for Week 5 of the schedule.

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## ***SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT***

**James Clifford Wion**, whose Wion's Body Shop and Powder Coating has been a sponsor of GSSCS for many years, passed away on April 6. On April 15, when players from Wion's and Harper Properties took the field for a L-1 game, they observed a period of silence in honor of Mr. Wion. He owned and operated the business for more than 55 years. He was 81.

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## ***SHORT HOPS AND LONG BOUNCES***

As noted in the Sacramento Bee's "Time to Celebrate" feature, Golden Senior Jay D. Reese received birthday wishes for his 51st as a local author, fisherman, softball player and grocery clerk extraordinaire ... and congratulations on your new book "Memoirs of a Grocery Clerk." Jay joined the GSSCS in May of 2012 as a Wednesday night player.

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## **GOLDEN SENIORS SPONSORS FOR 2013**

First VP Dick Latimer lists these 40 paid club sponsors for 2013 and urges club members to reward their support by giving them your business:

**AMERICAN MEDEQUIP**  
**ARNOLD PROPERTIES**  
**AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 1)**  
**AVALON HEARING AID CENTERS (TEAM 2)**  
**BECKS, IN MEMORY OF**  
**BERTOLUCCI BODY & FENDER SHOP, INC.**  
**\*JOHN BRENDLE CONSULTING**  
**C&C PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES**  
**\*CAPITOL BARRICADE**  
**COTTONWOOD ESTATES**  
**OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.**  
**\*EG THREADS**  
**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 1)**  
**ESPANOL ITALIAN RESTAURANT (TEAM 2)**  
**EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE**  
**GEREMIA POOLS**  
**GREATER SACRAMENTO SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**HARPER PROPERTIES**  
**\*BILL HILL ROOFING & VINYL SIDING**  
**\*BILL HILL WINDOWS, HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING**  
**JERRY JODICE, MEMORY OF**  
**JOLLY ROGERS**  
**\*KLUMPP'S FUNERAL HOME**  
**LIVINGSTON'S CONCRETE SERVICE**  
**L&S SURVEYS**  
**MARK E. WHITE, DDS**  
**MERRILL'S BOOKKEEPING AND TAX (Ray Merrill)**  
**R.H. NIELSEN REAL ESTATE**  
**OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY OF SACRAMENTO, INC.**  
**\*RAPID SOLUTIONS PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS**  
**RAMBIT, INC. (Ray Merrill)**  
**REINWALD'S HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE PLANS BROKERAGE**  
**\*SAM'S HOF BRAU**  
**SHOW BIZ PRODUCTIONS**  
**SILVER CATS**  
**SPORTS LEISURE VACATIONS**  
**TANNER AND ASSOCIATES**  
**\*TRI-C MACHINE CO. OF AUBURN, INC.**  
**VFW POST 67**  
**\*RYAN R. WILGUS, DDS**  
**WION'S BODY SHOP**

## **LEAGUE COMMISSIONERS FOR 2013**

**L-1 Henry Low 391-3938; Asst. George Hodsdon 481-9304**

**L-2 Dave Vargo 689-7061**

**L-3 Mel Tennyson 838-6811**

**L-4 Bud DeSouza 424-6115**

**L-5 Allen Riker 873-3779**

**L-6 Bill Greene 391-5559**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2012-13**

President **Tom Sansone** ... 686-1654  
First Vice President **Dick Latimer**  
363-9555 (Responsible for team  
sponsorships.)  
Second Vice President (Vacant)  
(Responsible for team uniforms.)  
Treasurer **Don Wall** ... 434-8308  
Secretary **Dave Tanner** ... 216-1941  
Player Agent **Myron Dahl** ... 451-2450  
(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:**

Asst. Secretary Henry Low  
391-3938

### **Player Applications:** Myron

Dahl 451-2450

### **Sunshine & Health:** Trudy

Smartt 973-8269

### **GSSC #3912 Blood Bank:**

456-1500

### **Safety Coordinator:** J.C. Terry

457-3393 Cell: 505-2570

### **Entertainment:** Lou Coppola

444-6138

### **Dugout Chatter:** Ron Roach,

editor 422-2500

([coachrwr@comcast.net](mailto:coachrwr@comcast.net))