
DUGOUT CHATTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Editor's Note: Bill Hill, beginning his third year of this his second tenure as club president, was asked for his thoughts as the club prepares for another season of senior softball.

I just want to wish all the members Happy Holidays and note that we are looking forward to a great 2018 softball season. It is a pleasure to work with such a great board and serve the members of the Golden Seniors Softball Club.

I would like to remind everyone to get their applications in early and please recruit anyone who might be interested in playing our great game that helps us stay active and healthy as we advance in our senior years.

What the heck, don't we want to choose staying active and playing the game we love over getting discount movie tickets for old folks? Okay, we can get those, too. But you know what I mean.

I want to invite anyone interested in becoming a league commissioner or team manager to contact Club Commissioner Bob Ellison (916 212-7498) or me (Bill Hill) at 916 804-2243. #

NEW LEAGUE 9 SET TO PLAY

The club's new League 9 for men 80 and over and women at least 60 will play on Tuesdays at 10:30 at Howe Park. There may be some League 9 teams drafting fathers and daughters!

League 8, launched in 2015, plays at Howe Park on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. for men at least 75 and women at least at least 60. The club has two other day leagues at Howe Park, on Mondays, minimum age 70 for men, 60 for women, with L1 starting at 9 a.m. and L7 at 10:30. These games begin a half-hour earlier than last season. L7 will be allowed to use Senior Softball USA-approved bats. Leagues 1 and 8 will continue to use restricted bats, as will the new L9.

Two Tuesday day leagues at the Complex are for men 60+ and women 55+. L2 starts at 9 a.m. and L6 at 10:30. Night leagues on Tuesdays (men 50+, women 45+), Wednesdays (men 55+, women 50+) and Thursdays (men 50+, women 45+) involve three games each night at the Complex, starting at 6:30. #

**NEXT
GENERAL
MEETING:
MONDAY, JAN.
8, 2018, 7 P.M.
AT VFW HALL
ON STOCKTON
BLVD.**

NEW SEASON SET TO START IN MARCH; PICNIC ON SEPT. 15

Meeting in November, the club's Board of Directors decided to start the 2018 season during the week of March 19. Mark your calendars for the board's Saturday, Sept. 15 target date for the season-ending league championship games and picnic.

Dates and places for league drafts in February are expected to be determined and announced in January, along with league commissioners and team managers.

Club Secretary Deanna Sesso said the board is working to keep the championship games and picnic at the Sacramento Softball Complex. Last September, the club's eight league championship games were all staged at the Complex in conjunction with the picnic. For a number of years, the night league title playoffs were held at the Complex on their normal nights and the day leaguers played at Howe Park, followed by a picnic.

Through efforts of the board, spearheaded by Secretary Sesso, the club negotiated having all leagues and the picnic at the Complex, where there are enough fields for all the games to be played before the mid-day picnic. #

SUNSHINE & HEALTH REPORT

Rest in Peace: Peaches Blackwell, Ken Fulmer

Funeral services for "**Peaches**" **Blackwell**, wife of Norman Blackwell Sr., were held Nov. 10 in the Oak Park Community Center. The gymnasium was packed for the service celebrating the life and memory of the Blackwell matriarch known as the "Mother of Oak Park."

Her real name was Mildred Jean Blackwell. She preferred to be known as Peaches, who was by Norm's side in the formation and growth of the Oak Park Little League. Their home across the street from the Community Center is well known as a place where the Peaches and family actively gave food, shelter, clothes and shoes to those in need for more than three decades.

Peaches and Norm had 10 children, over 58 grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren. The service was attended by many softball players — Golden Seniors as well as veterans of the nationally known California Gold tournament team managed by Norm.

Life Member **Ken Fulmer** passed away on Sept. 30 at the age of 92. Ken joined the Golden Seniors in 1990 and played through 2005. George Hodsdon recalled Ken as an excellent pitcher playing in the Monday league. #

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD SCHEDULES SIX 2018 GENERAL MEETINGS

The Board of Directors has scheduled these six general meetings for 2018, all on Monday nights, starting at 7 p.m, at the VFW Hall on Stockton Boulevard: January 8, February 12, March 12, May 14, July 9, Aug. 13.

The February meeting will feature the induction of new Life Members. Nominations for the 2019 Board of Directors are due July 9 and the election is set for Aug. 13. The new board will be sworn in at the season-ending picnic in September.

PLAYER APPLICATIONS: Players are urged to get their applications in as soon as possible if they want to be on teams drafted to begin the season or risk being assigned to wait lists. Applications for new and returning players are on the club website (www.gsscs.org) or contact Player Agent Dave Tanner 916 216-1941.

TEAM SPONSORS: Interested in sponsoring a team? Contact Rocky Wilkerson, club 1st VP, at 595-2941.

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME: Along with player applications on the web site is a list of boxes to check off for those who want to be considered to serve in the club. Besides the seven board officer spots (president, first vice president, second vice president, treasurer, club commissioner, player agent and secretary), options include: leading or serving on the picnic, rules and safety committees; service as a team manager, league commissioner, umpire, scorekeeper, photographer, publicity/communications and website management.

CODE OF ETHICS: Each member on player applications must sign a Code of Ethics in order to be accepted into the club. There are six points in the code:

1. Abide by club rules and by-laws as well as decisions of club officials.
2. Accept decisions of umpires and my team manager.
3. Avoid bodily contact that may injure myself or others.
4. Refrain from publicly degrading fellow club members and umpires.
5. Never direct abusive or profane language at an official or fellow club member.
6. Control the use of alcoholic beverages so as not to affect anyone or to cause adverse criticism. #

HERE IS A TRUE GSSCS IRON MAN: JACK JACINTO

Jack Jacinto is the Golden Seniors' Iron Man. He joined the club in March of 1980 so 2018 will be his 39th consecutive year of club membership. According to club records, checked by Player Agent Dave Tanner, no one has been a member longer than Jack.

On top of that, he is still an active player. In 2017, he played in 70-and-over League 1. He also had signed up for L8 (75 and over) but with 15-player rosters, he wasn't needed, and he also had been ill before the season. Thus he needed a courtesy runner from home.

On Nov. 26, he turned 90, to become the oldest rostered active player in the club.

"Jack has signed up to play in the new League 9 for 80-and-over players, and he will be the ripe young age of 91 in 2018," noted Tanner. "When you start thinking of a 55-year-old who plays in four leagues as an 'iron man,' stop and think about Jack. We all have a long way to go."

Jack said he is grateful that the club finally formed a league for 80-and-over players as he feels he is almost is too old for that group. Actually, he said he remains in "decent shape" after retiring 35 year ago from the California Highway Patrol. He loves to fish. And, since taking it up when he was 42, he enjoys slow-pitch softball. He said he still has all his original parts (except he uses hearing aids). He works out at a gym several times a week and, during the winter, has batting practice on Tuesdays and Fridays at Howe Park.

His secret of longevity? He said he has a gin with ice and garlic-stuffed olives daily, before dinner. And he has pretty good genes. His siblings have lived into their 90s and even 100.

On behalf of the club, Tanner said, "Thank you, Jack, for your commitment to GSSCS and to senior softball. We wish you many more seasons with the club." #

KESNER LEADS ALL GOLDEN SENIORS HITTERS IN 2017

Tim Kesner paced the Golden Seniors Softball Club's 2017 hitters with a scorching .860 batting average in League 6, tying the eighth-highest batting average since statistics began to be recorded in 2006.

Here are the regular-season league batting champions:

League 1 — Steve Gellerman .839; L2 — Hal Kastner .818; L3 — Bill Greene .797; L4 — Richard Reisinger .859; L5 — Anthony Maze .797; L6 — Tim Kesner .860; L7 — Chuck Knutson .741. (Note: L8 did not compile statistics.)

Besides Kesner, four others — Richard Reisinger (.859 in L4), Steve Gellerman (.839 in L1), Hal Kastner (.818 in L2) and Hal Johnson (.814 in L2) joined the .800 club in 2017. Johnson joined Emilio Lobato as a three-time .800 hitter. Jarvis Quenga, Bob Scollard, Mick Tursky, Dave Vargo and Jack Wabinga are two-time .800 hitters. Don Jackson, Rich Edwards and Monte Miller have reached the .800 level the most, four times. First-time .800 club members this year are L6 leader Kesner, L4 leader Reisinger, L1 leader Gellerman, and L2 leader Kastner.

Mick Tursky continues to hold the club record of .903 (L2 in 2014). It was threatened by Rick Cady's .891 in 2015. Rich Edward's .882 in 2012 ranks third.

TOP TEN BATTING AVERAGES: 2006-2017

1. MICK TURSKY League 2 (2014) .903
2. RICK CADY L4 (2015) .891
3. RICH EDWARDS L6 (2012) .882
4. RICH EDWARDS L2 (2013) .875
5. RAY LUCAS L2 (2016) .870
6. STEVE SCHULER L3 (2012) .865
7. MICK TURSKY L6 (2014) .861
8. GEOFF MILLER L4 (2012) .860
8. TIM KESNER L6 (2017) .860
10. HAL JOHNSON L2 (2016) .852

LEAGUE-BY-LEAGUE CLUB LEADERS THROUGH 2017 Much appreciated is the work of Dave Vargo, who produced this report from information provided by Head Scorekeeper Colette Barnes, her husband Russ Barnes, who worked on spreadsheets, Scorekeepers Dawn and Venus Gerlach and retired scorer/statistician Sandy Begg. Note use of bold face for overall club leader; italics signify high averages accomplished since the club allowed high-performance bats in the five leagues that play at the Sacramento Softball Complex.)

L1 MONDAY MORNING (2014-) Batting Average: Steve Gellerman .839 (2017), Bob Scollard .818 (2014 & 2015), Al Waller .788 (2016).

Base Hits: Bob Scollard 58 (2015).

RBI: Steve Gellerman 47 (2017). HR: Glenn McKeever 8 (2017).

L2 TUESDAY 9AM 60+: Batting Average: Mick Tursky .903 (2014), Rich Edwards .875 (2013), *Ray Lucas .870 (2016)*, *Hal Johnson .852 (2016)*, Dave Bristol .847 (2012), *Gus Niklas .833 (2016)*, John Lack .818 (2007) and Hal Kastner (2017), Rich Edwards .817 (2009), Wally Dorei .814 (2012), Hal Johnson .814 (2017), Mark Holgerson .814 (2014), John Shintaku .814 (2015), Gus Niklas .812 (2014), Mick Tursky .811 (2015), Rich Edwards .805 (2010), Dave Vargo .800 (2008), Ray Lucas .800 (2015).

Base Hits: Mick Tursky 62 (2014), Mervin Mill 60 (2007, 2012).

HR: Hal Johnson 11 (2014), Bob Flink 9 (2007), Joe Cors 7 (2011,2012). RBI: Joe Cors 58 (2012), Hal Johnson 56 (2014), Rich Edwards 54 (2013).

L3 TUESDAY NIGHT 50+: Batting Average: Steve Schuler .865 (2012), Larry Ellsberry .846 (2015), Emilio Lobato .833 (2010), Emilio Lobato .829 (2014), *Carlso Rodriguez .810 (2016)*, Keith Arnold .808 (2012), Jack Wabinga .808 (2010), Steve Casarez .807 (2012).

Hits: Larry Ellsberry 63 (2014), Emilio Lobato 63 (2014), Chris Oliver 62 (2017) HR: Steve Schuler 9 (2012), Barry Mortimeyer 8 (2007), Steve Casarez and Emilio Lobato 7 (2012).

RBI: Steve Casarez 60 (2010), Steve Schuler 58 (2011), MR Evans 55 (2006).

L4 WEDNESDAY NIGHT Night 50+ (2006-2015): Batting Average: Rick Cady .891 (2015), Geoff Miller .860 (2012), Mel Tennyson .847 (2012), Darrell Heim .845 (2012), Jarvis Quenga .839 (2012), Bill Christian .829 (2008), Monte Miller .826 (2008), Jarvis Quenga

.821 (2013), Bob Del Chiaro .817 (2007), Don Jackson .812 (2009), Emilio Lobato .809 (2011), Don Jackson .804 (2013), Jack Wabinga .804 (2015), Monte Miller .803 (2012), Monte Miller .800 (2007).

Hits: Allen Riker 66 (2009), Bill Christian 63 (2008), Bill Greene and Emilio Lobato 60 (2010). HR: Monta Litle 9 (2007) & Jarvis Quenga (2012), Emilio Lobato 8 (2007).

RBI: Jarvis Quenga 67 (2012), Quenga 64 (2014), Monte Miller 64 (2009).

L4 WEDNESDAY NIGHT 60+ (2016-): Batting Average: Richard Reisinger .859 (2017), *Rick Cady .818 (2016)*, *Don Jackson .814 (2016)*, *Bill Greene .813 (2016)*.

Hits: Richard Reisinger 67 (2017)

Homers: Dave Muller 5 (2017)

RBI: Marc Kirkland 59 (2017).

L5 THURSDAY NIGHT 50+: Batting Average: Shawn Rogers .846 (2015), Monte Miller .844 (2009), Chris Aguilar .841 (2015), Lyman Rose .833 (2014), Dave Rhodes .824 (2012), *Ted Crumbley .824 (2016)*, Shawn Rogers .818 (2011), *Bob Kunnmann .800 (2015)*, Rich Ganas .800 (2009) and Don Jackson .800 (2010).

Hits: Allen Riker 66 (2010), Monte Miller 65 (2011), Dave Vargo 65 (2006), Larry Lagomarsino 65 (2010).

HR: *Lyman Rose 10 (2012)*, *Chris Aguilar 10 (2015)*, *Rose 9 (2014)*, *Quenga 9 (2014)*, Monta Litle 9 (2007) and Rich Ganas 2008.

RBI: Mel Tennyson 67 (2014), *Chris Aguilar 61 (2015)*, Demontro Davis 61 (2011), Monta Litle 60 (2006).

L6 TUESDAY 10:30AM SELECT 60+ (2006-2011): Batting Average: Doug Peterson .828 (2009), Rich Edwards .789 (2011), Bob Cummings .784 (2007).

Hits: Dave Vargo 58 (2008), Doug Peterson 55 (2008) and Bob Fenton (2009).

HR: AJ Petruzzi 10 (2007), Bill Greene 8 (2011), Bob Cummings 5 (2007).

RBI: Doug Peterson and Dave Vargo 53 (2008).

L6 TUESDAY 10:30AM 60+ (2012-2017): Batting Average: Mick Tursky .903 (2014), Rich Edwards .882 (2012), Tim Kesner .860 (2017), Dave Vargo .846 (2012), *Hal Johnson .823 (2014)*.

Hits: Bill Greene 62 (2012), *Rich Edwards 62 (2014)*, *Mike Mayer 62 (2014)*.

HR: Joe Cors 8 (2012), *Hal Johnson 7 (2014)*.

RBI: Jon Ellison 63 (2012), Joe Cors 57 (2012).

L7 MONDAY MORNING 70+ (2014-): Batting Average: Everett Richardson .792 (2015), Ron Roach .763 (2014), Jack Tibbetts .750 (2016).

Hits: Jack Tibbetts 51 (2015)

HR: Drew Asher 2 (2015), John Meyer 2 (2016), Bill Nevis 2 (2017)

RBI: Asher 38 (2015).

L7 TUESDAY SELECT 70+ (2009-2010): Batting Average: Dale Stykel .809 (2010), Jim Stinson .749 (2009).

Hits: Jim Stinson 56 (2009).

HR: Henry Low 2 (2009).

RBI: Henry Low 33 (2009).

NOTES: Batting average requires minimum 50 plate appearances & 3 per scheduled game. Bold signifies club record. Italics signifies 2012 and later stats with higher-performance bats allowed. Higher-performance bats have not been allowed in L1, L7 and L8, and batting stats have not been kept in the 75-and-older L8.

#

2017 Batting Leaders

NIGHT LEAGUES:

TUESDAY L3: HR: Marcus Kirkland 4, David Montgomery & Larry Ellsberry 3. RBI: Ted Hofmeister 52, Chris Oliver 47, 2 tied with 42. HITS: Oliver 62, David Hennig 60, two tied with 53.

WEDNESDAY L4: HR: Dave Muller 5, Kirkland 4, 3 tied with 2. RBI: Kirkland 59, Ettore Minor 55, Scott Wilson 51. HITS: Richard Reisinger 67, Dave Muller 66, Larry Lagomarsino 61.

THURSDAY L5: HR: Jarvis Quenga and Gerome Gibson 6, Anthony Maze 5. RBI: Maze 52, Quenga 49, Gibson 47. HITS: George Lamb 56, Jeff Luna 52, 2 tied with 49.

DAY LEAGUES:

MONDAY L1: HR: Glenn McKeever 8, Steve Gellerman 5, Dave Vargo 3. RBI: Gellerman 44, Vargo 35, Don Shank 33. HITS: Vargo 49, Gellerman and Robert McBee 47.

MONDAY L7: HR: Bill Nevis 2, Vargo 1. RBI: Mike Basich 35, Chuck Knutson 28, 2 tied with 26. HITS: Dan Tajbl 44, Mike Basich 43, 2 tied with 40.

TUESDAY L2: HR: Jose Moreno 6, Hal Johnson 5, Mike Pouncy 4. RBI: Pouncy 35, Tim Kesner 34, Moreno 33. HITS: Mick Tursky 41, 6 tied with 37.

TUESDAY L6: HR: Johnson 4, Moreno 3, 3 tied with 2. RBI: Pouncy 40, Johnson 38, Tim Lease 38. HITS: Rich Edwards 45, Tursky 44, Kesner 43. NOTE: top 3 batting average hitters in each league were previously reported in October's Dugout Chatter. #

CLUB CONTACTS:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2018 -- President: Bill Hill ... 804-2243

First Vice President: Rocky Wilkerson .. 595-2941 (Responsible for team sponsorships.)

Second Vice President: Bob Smartt ... 973-8269 (Responsible for team uniforms, balls.)

Treasurer: Don Wall ... 434-8308 Secretary: Deanna Sesso ... 955-8195 Player Agent:

Dave Tanner ... 216-1941 (Responsible for player applications, player substitutes, waiting lists.) Club Commissioner: Bob Ellison ... 212-7498 (Responsible for enforcement of league rules, appoints and oversees league commissioners.)

TELEPHONE HOTLINE Club Answering Machine (managed by Deanna Sesso): 491-1721 for meeting news and field conditions. For phone or address changes, and renewal applications, contact Player Agent Dave Tanner at 216-1941. Applications are online at WWW.GSSCS.ORG. Sunshine & Health: Trudy Smartt 973-8269; Rules: Bob Ellison; GSSC #3912 Blood Bank: 456-1500; Entertainment: Lou Coppola 444-6138. Safety: Glenn Cummings 276-9530; Dugout Chatter: Ron Roach, editor 422-2500. #

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For information on how to become a sponsor for 2017 or take advantage of two-year sponsorship terms, contact Rocky Wilkerson, first vice president, at 595-2941.

