

2018 ARCHIVES OF *SUN LAKES SPLASH* SOFTBALL ARTICLES



Player Draft Day for the new season. L-R: Manager Randy Rothenbuehler, Statistician Dennis LePore and Manager TJ Tjernlund.
(Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

JANUARY 2018

FALL SOFTBALL SEASON WRAPS UP

By Larry Wolfe

The Fall Softball Season wrapped up a week after our press deadline, so you'll need to go to the Stats Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to see the final standings and batting averages.

Heading into the final week of play Ken Brenden's Financial Services club and Manager Tom Kasunic's Rustlers Realty squad were tied for first place in the Sun Division while Manager Randy Rothenbuehler's Core Photography team held a two-game lead over Manager John Seigla's A-1 Golf Carts squad in the Lakes Division. In the Sun Division Mike Otman held a slim lead over Kim Whitney for top batting average (.811 vs. .803) while in the Lakes Division Dennis McCarthy led Bill Stanick, .778 to .759.

After a two-week holiday hiatus, the Winter League season will open on January 2nd. In addition, our Lady Sluggers team, which plays in the Valley of the Sun League, will begin their season in January. Go to the Ladies Page on our website to see their home and away schedules.

We had three more banner advertising sponsors renew this past month. They were: The Buckeye Boys, supporters of THE Ohio State University, sponsors since 2010; Dr. Matthew Hansen of OrthoArizona, a sponsor since 2014; and, Spooner Physical Therapy, with a Sun Lakes office at the corner of Riggs & Alma School Roads, also sponsors since 2014. In addition, thanks to Pat Wolfe for the new Field of Dreams banner in centerfield.

You can see a list of all of our advertising and team sponsors on the Sponsors Page of our website. There are also links to their websites on our site. Support the companies that support Sun Lakes!



JANUARY 2018

SUN LAKES SOFTBALL: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE?

By Larry Wolfe

As many Sun Lakes residents know, there is a possibility that the Field of Dreams softball complex may be converted into a large pickleball facility and a park with other amenities. This would, of course, have a major impact on the softball program. The Softball Association is not anti-pickleball or anti-park, but we would hope that a solution could be found to allow all amenities to co-exist.

A little background: The softball program was founded in 1985 with the first field on the corner of South EJ Robson Blvd. and Riggs Road. In 1988 a temporary field was located where the Baptist Church now stands at the corner of Dobson and Riggs Rd. The following year, our first “real field” was constructed where the Sun Lakes Library now stands. That field included dugouts, fencing, stands and a scorer’s booth. It was used from 1989 until 2002 when the current Field of Dreams was built by the developer. The Softball Association contributed \$20,000 toward the construction of the new clubhouse and solicited donations from area businesses for the fencing, dugouts and other items.

The softball program was established for all Sun Lakes residents, not any one “phase” and has been run by volunteers from all of Sun Lakes. Volunteers

maintained the current Field of Dreams entirely until a couple years ago when the IronOaks HOA became involved. (The Field of Dreams became the property of the IronOaks HOA a few years ago when they purchased the golf courses and other amenities from Robson Communities.)

Over the years, the program has grown from one travel team, the Sun Lakes Blues, to now include eight men's league teams, several age-group travel teams, a ladies team and a recreational program. The field is used on average about 240 days per year for all of these programs.

It has been suggested that our program could be relocated to Chandler's Snedigar Park complex. There are several issues with that proposal. Field preparation and field rentals would likely exceed \$20,000 per year; the Snedigar Fields are designed for younger guys with much deeper outfield fences than the Field of Dreams; we would have no storage facility for our field equipment; we would have to transport equipment, protective screens, game balls, etc. from "wherever" to Snedigar 240 times per year.

Other issues include the significant cost of building the new complex (\$750,000 plus?), the significant noise problem from sixteen (or more?) pickleball courts and the impact on nearby homeowners, the potential for ruinous costly floods (the field is a drain-off area and in a flood plain: see the photo accompanying this article) and problems controlling access to an open park area "outside the gates."

We feel that all IronOaks homeowners should have a vote in deciding this very significant issue. We also welcome input and suggestions from other Sun Lakes communities who also have a stake in the outcome. Sun Lakes softball started out as a dream...and culminated in the building of the Field of Dreams. Now the question is: Will the dream endure...?



Members of the Co-champion Real Estate Rustlers (yellow jerseys) and Brenden Financial Planning teams. (Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

FEBRUARY 2018

BRENDEN AND RUSTLERS TIE IN SUN DIVISION

By Larry Wolfe

As fate would have it, the Brenden Financial Planning team, sponsored and managed by Ken Brenden, and the Real Estate Rustlers, sponsored by Jim Leckner and managed by Tom Kasunic, entered the final day of the Fall League softball season with identical 9-7 records and were scheduled to play each other in a doubleheader on that final day. In the opener, the Rustlers beat the Planners 17-10, but the Planners came back in the nightcap to beat the Rustlers 17-11 resulting in a tie for the league lead in the Sun Division. Both squads ended their seasons with records of 10-8, just nosing out Manager Mike Gloyd's Young Realty team by one game.

Mike Otman led the division with an .805 average followed by Kim Whitney (.791), Steve Hilby (.776), Larry Kaufmann (.710) and Tom Kasunic (.675).

The Sun Division Winter League opened on January 2 and will run through February 23. A double elimination tournament will be played at the conclusion of the regular season. Check out our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date news, standings and batting statistics.



The Lakes Division champions: Back row, l-r: Al Grefsheim, Gary Brinkman, Mike Core, Mike Levine, Bob Zawidski and Manager Randy Rothenbuehler. Kneeling, l-r: Dave Boone, Dennis Colbert, Dan Bradfield, Jeff Jay and Jesse Washington. (Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

FEBRUARY 2018

CORE PHOTOGRAPHY CAPTURES LAKES DIVISION TITLE

By Larry Wolfe

Entering the final day of the Lakes Division Fall League, the Core Photography team, managed by Randy Rothenbuehler, held a slim one game lead over the A-1 Golf Carts squad, managed by John Seigla. The Photographers and Golfers were scheduled to play a doubleheader against each other on that final day. In the opener of the doubleheader, the Golfers edged the Photographers 17-15, thereby tying for the league lead with identical records of 10 wins and 7 losses. In the winner-take-

all finale the Photographers prevailed in a real nail biter by a score of 21-20 and captured the crown with an 11-7 record.

Dennis LePore of the Wolfe & Associates team led the division in hitting with a .767 mark. He was followed by Dave Boone (.758), Bill Stanick (.752), John Seigla (.750) and Mike Levine (.744).

The Lakes Division Winter League opened on January 2 and will run through February 23. A double elimination tournament will be played at the conclusion of the regular season. Check out our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date news, standings and batting statistics.



The 2018 Sluggers: Front, l-r: Tracy Murray, Cyndy Hilby, Cheryl Loyd, Pam Yocom, Suzy Steinman, Roseanne Kuefner Back, l-r: Joan Schmidt, Ann Buckley, Billi Jo Maggio, Brooke Jones, Teresa Dorman, Manager Terry Finley and Lynn Casey. Missing from photo: Cynthia Badger & Sandy Luring (Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

FEBRUARY 2018

LADY SLUGGERS SEASON IS UNDERWAY

By Larry Wolfe

The Lady Sluggers senior softball team began their season on January 3rd. The Sluggers play in the Valley of the Sun League which includes nine other teams from throughout the Valley. The 30-game season includes fifteen doubleheaders with eight home doubleheaders scheduled to be played at the Field of Dreams. Game time is twelve noon.

Here's their schedule for the remainder of the season:

Monday, January 29 vs. Fountain of the Sun	Away Game
Wednesday, January 31 vs. Sunland Village East	Home Game
Monday, February 5 vs. The Stingers	Home Game
Monday, February 12 vs. Canyon Vistas	Home Game
Wednesday, February 14 vs. Valle Del Oro	Home Game
Monday, February 19 vs. Fountain of the Sun	Home Game
Wednesday, February 21 vs. Resort	Away Game
Wednesday, February 28 vs. Queen Creek	Away Game

Other information may be found on the Ladies Team Page of our website: www.sunlakessoftball.com. Come out to the field and cheer our ladies on to victory!



Lady Sluggers in action. Left: Billi Jo Maggio gets ready to haul in a long fly ball. Right: Cheryl Loyd shows her smooth batting stroke.
(Photos by Core Photography)

MARCH 2018

LADY SLUGGERS UPDATE By Larry Wolfe

The Lady Sluggers senior softball team wrapped up their season on February 28th. The ladies want to thank the great boisterous crowds that cheered them on at all their home games at the Field of Dreams. They're also thankful for the support provided by members of the men's league who prepared the field for play and provided umpires for all their home games.

This was a "learning year" for the team with lots of new players, so their record wasn't the best, but they continued to show great improvement throughout the season. As Dem Brooklyn Dodger fans used to say, "Wait'll next year!"

At press time, Brooke Jones was the leading hitter at .750, followed by Terry Finley (.659), Ann Buckley (.625), Cheryl Loyd (.600) and Billi Jo Maggio (.585). Brooke, Billi Jo and Suzy Steinmann all hit long homeruns. We'll provide a final recap of the season in next month's *Splash*.



Ponchos championship team: l-r, Larry Kaufmann, Dennis Bernaiche, Jim Leckner, Team Sponsor Ralph Vasquez of Ponchos Restaurant, Mike Wolfe, Leigh Charboneau, Hank Harvey, Evan Hansen, Tim Loeffler, Tom Lorgan, Bill Corso, Spencer Preston, Bill Cheney, Brian Hiltz, Steve Schaidler and Denny Davidson

MARCH 2018

SUN LAKES PONCHOS WIN METCALF SOFTBALL TOURNEY By Larry Wolfe

Our Major 70's softball travel team, sponsored by Poncho's Mexican Restaurant, won the annual "Doc" Metcalf Memorial Tournament held at Papago Park in Tempe. The Ponchos beat out five other area 70's+ squads to win the title. They played five games, winning them all, and outscoring the opposition by a cumulative score of 90-52 in those contests. They coasted by the Phoenix Sidewinders by a 20-7 score in the championship game.

This tournament honors the late Gene "Doc" Metcalf, who played and managed in our Sun Lakes league for many years and was a long-time Director of the national governing body, Senior Softball-USA.

The Ponchos hit .711 as a team with Mike Wolfe (.824), Tim Loeffler (.813), Leigh Charboneau (.800) and Steve Schaidler (.800) leading the way.



Winter League Action: L-R Outfielder Dennis McCarthy, First Baseman Bill McCoy, base runner Frank Rouse and Coach Dennis Kennedy
(Photo by Core Photography)

MARCH 2018

WOLFE & YOUNG TEAMS ARE WINTER LEAGUE CHAMPS

By Larry Wolfe

The Wolfe & Associates squad, managed by Randy Rothenbuehler, cruised to the Lakes Division softball championship with a sterling record of 14-4. The Accountants bested the second place Core Photography team, managed by John Seigla, by six games. The top hitters in the Lakes Division (based upon a minimum of 120 at bats) were: Bill Stanick (.761), Dennis LePore (.748), John Seigla (.711), Al Grefsheim (.705) and Dennis McCarthy (.689).

In the Sun Division, the Young Realty team, sponsored by Terry & Susan Young and managed by Mike Gloyd, edged out the State Farm Insurance squad,

sponsored by the Ralph Vasquez Agency and managed by Ron Carmichael. The Realtors finished with an 11-7 record, a game and a half better than the Insurers' 9-8 mark. The top hitters in the Sun Division (again based upon a minimum of 120 at bats) were: Steve Hilby (.786), Mike Otman (.771), Larry Kaufmann (.767), Kim Whitney (.738) and Paul Gayer (.694).

Double elimination tournaments followed the regular season. Recaps of the two tourneys will appear in the April edition of the *Splash*. The Spring Leagues opened on February 27 and will continue into April. Check our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date standings and batting statistics, as well as other news.

Thanks to the following companies and individuals who recently renewed their advertising banners at the Field of Dreams:

1. Aluma-Line, Inc. provides a wide range of awnings and window treatments. President Dan Schneider and his company have been advertisers since 2006.
2. Terry & Susan Young Realtors have supported our program since 2007. They are also team sponsors.
3. Flooring Gallery & More, located at 9666 E. Riggs Rd. next to the hardware store, have been supporters since 2006.

Many thanks to all of our advertisers and team sponsors. See a list of these companies on the Sponsors Page of our website. Always support the companies who support our program and our community!

We were saddened to learn of the passing of former SLSSA member and softball player Hal Mahaffey. A Celebration of Life and an informal luncheon will be held at the Palo Verde Restaurant at noon on Monday, March 19. RSVP by March 9 to Hal's wife, Dolores, at 480-895-3840 or doloreshalm@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATE! Our annual banquet will be held on Wednesday evening, March 28th. Invitations and RSVP cards will be mailed to all current members. Former members are also invited to attend. Call (480-802-2748) or email (larryewolfe@msn.com) if you want to be added to the invitation list.



The Lakes Division Tourney Champs: Back, l-r: Reggie Reese, Mgr. Chris Jensen, Chuck Swanson, Dennis McCarthy & Bob Zawidski. Kneeling, l-r: Frank Rouse, Tom Erpelding, Bill Cheney and Tom Vitolo
(Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

APRIL 2018

FARMERS INSURANCE CAPTURES LAKES DIVISION TOURNEY By Larry Wolfe

A three-day double elimination tournament was held at the end of our Winter League season. In the opening game of the Lakes Division Tournament, Core Photography, managed by John Seigla, edged A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Gary Hillabolt, by a 13-11 score. Tom Erpelding led the winners with four hits while both Dan Bradfield and Bob Hutchins tallied four hits for the Golfers. In game two, the Wolfe & Associates team, managed by Randy Rothenbuehler, eked out a 16-15 victory over Farmers Insurance, managed by Chris Jensen and sponsored by the Frank Margiotta Agency. Six of the Wolfe & Associates' Accountants had three safeties in a well-balanced attack, while Manager Jensen led his team with four hits.

On the second day of the tournament, Core Photography bested Wolfe & Associates 16-9. Bill Stanick and Hoot Gibson paced the winners with four hits each while Hal Kime had four safeties for the Accountants. In the second game of the day, Farmers Insurance eliminated A-1 Golf Carts by a 26-15 score. The Farmers bashed out a tournament-high thirty-eight hits including five by Bob Zawidski and four each by Tom Erpelding, Frank Rouse, Chuck Swanson, Bill Cheney and Larry Maggard. Doug Warwick and Big Al Grefsheim had four hits each for the Golfers.

On Championship Day, the Farmers ousted Wolfe & Associates 20-17 with Tom Erpelding, Bill Cheney and Tom Vitolo leading the way for the Farmers with four hits apiece. Jeff Jay paced the Accountants with a perfect five for five with Steve Kay lashing out four hits in support. That victory allowed the Farmers to fight their way back from an opening day loss to the Championship Game. They faced a well-rested Core Photography squad in that game. The Farmers continued their hot streak by scoring 23 runs in the first five innings, coasting to a 24-14 triumph. Tom Erpelding and Bill Stanick had five for five games to lead the Farmers while Dennis McCarthy and Larry Maggard supported the cause with four hits each. Bill Stanick had four safeties for the Photographers.

Congratulations to rookie manager Chris Jensen and his Farmers Insurance team, Winter League Tourney Champs!



Sluggers' Most Improved Player Roseanne Kuefner swings away.
(Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

APRIL 2018

LADY SLUGGERS WRAP UP SEASON

By Larry Wolfe

The Lady Sluggers Senior Softball team recently wrapped up their 2018 season in the Valley of the Sun League. Even though they didn't have a winning record this year, they had lots of fun and improved significantly over the course of the season. The team had several new players including Roseanne Kuefner, who had never played organized softball before. She went from a novice learning the game to a top flight outfielder snagging fly balls like a long-time pro! All of the ladies are looking forward to next year with this season of experience under their belts.

Brooke Jones led this year's squad in hitting with a robust .708 average, followed by Terry Finley (.677), Suzy Steinmann (.590), Ann Buckley (.550), Cheryl Loyd (.537) and Billi Jo Maggio (.534). Billi Jo led the team in homers with three while Brook, Suzy and Lynn Casey also homered.

The Sluggers concluded their season with a picnic at Sisk Park in Palo Verde where they celebrated their many highlights and started strategizing for next year. If you're interested in participating next year, watch our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for information. Practices normally begin in November with league playing starting in early January.



Jim Leckner turns a double play as Reyes Gonzalez backs him up.
(Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

APRIL 2018

SPRING SOFTBALL SEASONS ARE UNDERWAY By Larry Wolfe

The Spring Seasons for both the Sun and Lakes Divisions are underway. The seasons run through mid-April and culminate with a three-day double elimination

tournament. Go to our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date team standings, statistics and other news.

At the conclusion of league play, our recreational summer program will commence. See the website for more information.

We welcome a new advertising sponsor this month. Gregory P. Rowe, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, of AACI Foot, Leg & Ankle Care Centers has joined our family of sponsors. Learn more about Dr. Rowe and his practice at www.aacicare.com.

We were saddened by the recent passing of Joan Mullen, wife of long-time SLSSA member Floyd Mullen and Lorna Hatch, wife of current member Gary Hatch. Lorna was an active supporter of our program, running the scoreboard on a regular basis. Our prayers and support go out to both Floyd and Gary and their families and friends.



The Sun Division Tourney Champs: Standing, l-r: Tom Schneider, Steve Hilby, John Whitman, Tom Lorgan, Bill Corso & Mike Otman. Kneeling, l-r: Dick Bleich, Randy Neumann, Gary Hatch, Mgr. Mike Gloyd & Rick Oien. Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

APRIL 2018

YOUNG REALTY WINS SUN DIVISION TOURNEY

By Larry Wolfe

The Young Realty team, managed by Mike Gloyd and sponsored by Terry & Susan Young Realtors, won the three-day Sun Division's double elimination Winter League Tournament in exciting fashion. But let's first take a look at the games leading up to that finale.

In the Sun Division opener, the Real Estate Rustlers, sponsored by Jim Leckner's Revelation Real Estate Agency and managed by Tom Kasunic, beat Young Realty 25-12 sending them to the losers' bracket at that point. Manager Kasunic and Doug Friesen led the Rustlers' 33-hit attack with four safeties each.

In the second contest, Brenden Financial Services, managed and sponsored by Ken Brenden, topped State Farm Insurance 22-14. State Farm was managed by Ron Carmichael and sponsored by the Ralph Vasquez Agency. Paul Gayer and Steve Hilby both went four for four for the winners while Reyes Gonzalez paced the Insurers with four hits including two long homers.

On day two, Brenden's Financial Planners topped the Rustlers 16-6. Kim Whitney led the Planners with four hits, including three doubles. In the losers' bracket, Young Realty eliminated State Farm 21-17. Steve Hilby led the Young Realtors with four hits including three homeruns. Mike Otman also had four hits and a homer. Mark McKinnon went four for four for the Insurers.

On the third day of the tournament, Young Realty eliminated the Rustlers 14-12. Steve Hilby again led the way, going four for four. Dan Melosi had four hits for the losing squad. That set up the championship game with the Young Realtors facing Brenden Financial. The Realtors jumped out to a big early lead, but the Planners battled back scoring eleven runs in the last two innings. That put a scare into the Realtors, but they managed to hang on for a 25-23 triumph. Guess who...?? Yep, Steve Hilby went four for four for the third game in a row with two more homers while Mike Otman also had four hits to lead the Realtors to the championship. The championship game was a real slugfest with Brenden's Planners knocking out thirty-five hits compared to thirty-four for the champion Realtors. Paul Gayer had five hits for the Planners while Sam Giordano and Steve Schaider had four hits each.

Congratulations to the Young Realty squad for battling all the way back through the losers' bracket to win the Winter League Tournament.



President Sam Giordano with Spirit Award winners Cyndy Hilby and TJ Tjernlund (Photo by Core Photography)

MAY 2018

HILBY & TJERNLUND NAMED SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS

By Larry Wolfe

Over 120 members and guests attended the annual Sun Lakes Senior Softball Banquet in the Oakwood Ballroom. Association President Sam Giordano acted as emcee for the program. Jesse Washington opened the program with sterling renditions of the U.S. and Canadian national anthems.

After a satisfying meal provided by the IronOaks banquet & catering staff, Sam continued the program with a brief “State of the Association” address. He then introduced the two new recently-elected Board members, Ron Carmichael and

Gary Hatch. Outgoing members Mike Core and Gary Hillabolt were thanked for their years of service.

He also recognized the 2017-2018 team sponsors: A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Planning, Core Photography, Frank Margiotta's Farmers Insurance Agency, Jim Leckner's Revelation Real Estate Agency, Ralph Vasquez' State Farm Insurance Agency, Wolfe & Associates Accounting Services, and Terry & Susan Young's Realty Agency.

Mike Core, the organization's official photographer and humorist, then presented his annual entertaining slide show presentation of "The Best of Geezer Ball." Few were left unscathed!

The highlight of the program was the presentation of the annual "Spirit of Sun Lakes Softball Awards." The awards are given to those members who go "above and beyond" in support of our program. The award was initiated in 2010 with the first Spirit award earned by the late Dr. Roger Spark. This year's winners were Cyndy Hilby, scorer extraordinaire, and TJ Tjernlund, the Stats man.

Thanks to Banquet Coordinator Pat Wolfe and all of the above-named program participants.

In other news, we welcome a new advertising banner sponsor, AAA Car Buying. They are a special services division of the American Automobile Association (AAA) with Bob "Soup" Campbell the local rep. We also thank A-1 Golf Carts for renewing their advertising banner; they've been advertising at the Field of Dreams since 2003.

The following Board of Directors and Officers were recently elected for the 2018-2019 term: President Sam Giordano, Vice President Bill Corso, Secretary Steve Hilby, Treasurer Larry Wolfe and Board Members-at-Large Ron Carmichael, Gary Hatch, Jim Leckner and Jesse Washington.



State Farm Champs: Kneeling, l-r: Frank Tanner, Mike Lebet, Reyes Gonzales, Mgr. Ron Carmichael and Roger Wisslead. Back, l-r: Tom Schneider, Doug Friesen, Mark Rhoten, John Whitman, Chuck Hamby and Steve Schaidler. (Photo by Core Photography)

MAY 2018

STATE FARMS WINS SUN DIVISION PENNANT

By Larry Wolfe

The State Farm Insurance team, managed by Ron Carmichael and sponsored by Ralph Vasquez' Agency, won the Sun Division Spring Softball pennant with a 13-5 record, two games better than Brenden Financial Planning's 11-7 mark. Ken Brenden's squad swept a doubleheader from the Real Estate Rustlers on the last day of the season to secure second place.

Following the regular season, the Sun Division Spring Tournament took place. Results of that tourney will be covered in next month's *Splash*.

The Top Ten hitters in the Sun Division, based upon a minimum of 125 at bats, were: Reyes Gonzalez (.828), Steve Hilby (.759), Mark McKinnon (.743), Paul Guyer (.739), Larry Kaufmann (.733), Mike Otman (.731), Kim Whitney (.706), Chuck Schaan (.694), Tom Kasunic (.693), John Whitman (.688) and Randy Neumann (.685).



Lakes Division Champs: Kneeling, l-r: Jim Dunn, Frank Rouse, Wes Reynolds, Jeff Jay and Dennis Kennedy. Standing, l-r: Reg Reese, Dennis McCarthy, Mgr. TJ Tjernlund, Hoot Gibson, Dom Colonna, Hal Kime and Team Sponsor Larry Wolfe
(Photo by Core Photography)

MAY 2018

WOLFE & ASSOCIATES SWEEPS A-1 GOLF FOR TITLE
By Larry Wolfe

Entering the final day of play in the ultra-competitive Lakes Division Spring Softball Season, Farmers Insurance had a 10-8 record while both A-1 Golf Carts and Wolfe & Associates sported 9-7 records. A split of the scheduled doubleheader between the Golfers and the Wolves would have resulted in a three-way tie; however, the Wolfe & Associates squad, managed by TJ Tjernlund, swept the golfers by scores of 12-4 and 15-9 to finish 11-7, one game better than Farmers Insurance. That earned the Wolves the number 1 seed in the season-ending tournament. (The tournament was played after this month's press deadline and will be covered in next month's *Splash*.)

The Top Ten hitters in the Lakes Division, based upon a minimum of 125 at bats, were: Bill Stanick (.771), Jim Entwistle (.765), Dennis LePore (.723), Al Grefsheim (.714), Doug Warwick (.689), Tom Erpelding (.688), John Seigla (.681), Dennis McCarthy (.679), Jerry Smith (.678) and Gary Alexander and Hal Kime (both at .676).



Sun Division Champs: Front, l-r: Jim Leckner, Tim Loeffler, Tom Lorgan, Mark McKinnon and Chuck Myrick. Back, l-r: Rick oien, Randy Neumann, Gene Grandquist, Billy Kee, Larry Kaufmann and Paul Gayer.
(Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

JUNE 2018

BRENDEN FINANCIAL WINS SUN DIVISION TOURNEY By Larry Wolfe

The top-seeded State Farm Insurance team, managed by Ron Carmichael and sponsored by the Ralph Vasquez Agency, hosted the number four seeded Young Realty squad in the opening game of the Sun Division's Spring tournament. The Realtors were managed by Mike Gloyd and sponsored by Terry & Susan Young. The Insurance Men coasted to an 11-6 win with Manager Carmichael leading the way with three hits, three runs and a long triple.

In the second contest, second-seeded Brenden Financial Planning, managed and sponsored by Ken Brenden, beat the #3 seeded Real Estate Rustlers, managed by Tom Kasunic and sponsored by Jim Leckner's Agency. In a well-played game, both teams played errorless ball (which is rare for senior softball!), resulting in a 8-6 win for the Planners. Billy Kee paced the Planners with three hits and three runs while Dave Lingen had three hits, including two triples, for the Rustlers.

On day two of the three-day tourney, Brenden's Boys again were victorious, topping the State Farm team by a 13-10 score. In a well-balanced attack, six Planners had three hits each while Tom Schneider led the State Farm squad with four hits in the losing cause.

The Real Estate Rustlers then eliminated Young Realty in a tie-breaker game. Most of the Rustlers' runs came from the long ball; Dan Melosi hit three HRs while Mark McKinnon had two. Tom Kasunic and Dave Lingen chipped in with one each. Mike Otman had a perfect five for five day for the Realtors.

On the final day of play, State Farm came back to eliminate the Rustlers, winning 17-11. Tom Schneider and Mark Rhoten had four hits each to lead the way to victory. Mark McKinnon and Randy Neumann had three each for the losing team.

The championship game was a real slugfest between Brenden's Boys and State Farm. Brenden's Financial Planners bested the Insurers by a 21-18 score in a game

that featured 64 hits, including five homers and a total of fifteen hits for extra bases. Chuck Myrick and Randy Neumann led Brenden's attack with four hits each while Doug Freisen and Reyes Gonzales had four each for State Farm.

Congratulations to Ken Brenden and the Financial Planners!



Lakes Division Champs: Front row, l-r: Jesse Washington, Wes Reynolds, Billy Kreisman, Terry Zeltinger and Dan Bradfield. Back row, l-r: Manager Tom Erpelding, Bob Zawidski, John Heimann, Bill Stanick, Hoot Gibson, Jeff Jay and Bill Gaston. (Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

JUNE 2018

FARMERS EDGE A-1 GOLFERS FOR TOURNEY TITLE By Larry Wolfe

In the opening game of the Lakes Division Spring Tournament, the Farmers Insurance squad, managed by Tom Erpelding and sponsored by Frank Margiotta's

Agency, eked out a 14-12 win over A-1 Golf Carts. A-1, the number 3 seed, was managed by Randy Rothenbuehler. Dan Bradfield and Bill Stanick paced the number two-seeded Farmers with four hits each while Doug Warwick and Dennis McCarthy banded out four hits each for the Golfers.

The second game featured the number one-seeded Wolfe & Associates team, managed by TJ Tjernlund, playing fourth-seeded Core Photography, managed by John Seigla. The Photographers jumped out to an early 10-0 lead, but the Wolves came roaring back, scoring 15 runs in the final three innings, for an 18-14 victory. The winners were paced by Hal Kime and Reggie Reese, with four hits each, while Tom Erpelding had four safeties for the Photographers.

On the second day of the three day tourney, the Farmers upset the Wolves 15-14 in a super-exciting contest. Trailing 15-11 going into the bottom of the 7th, the Wolves tallied three runs and had the winning runners on base before falling one run short. Big Bill Gaston led the Farmers with four hits including two long doubles off the wall. Billy Kreisman and Terry Zeltinger added four hits as well; Frank Rouse and Dom Colonna led the Wolfe Pack with four safeties each.

And then the winds came howling: gusts of 40+ mph and blowing dust turned the next contest into a game for the ages. The swirling winds made it difficult for pitchers to find the plate and for fielders to catch the ball. The game featured 29 bases on balls, 88 hits and 61 runs! So who won this crazy contest? The answer, my friends, is blowin' in the wind! (Sorry, I couldn't resist!) Actually A-1 Golf Carts prevailed 31-30. The Golfers had six players reach base five times each: Ronnie Pennington, Doug Warwick, Rick Ebel, Dennis Kennedy, Randy Rothenbuehler and Gordy Hannaford. Dan Bradfield reached base six times for the Photographers while Ed Sowney went five for five.

On the final day of the tournament, the weather returned to normal and the scores reflected that. A-1 Golf Carts eliminated Wolfe & Associates in a low scoring tie-breaker to reach the finals. The Golfers were led by Ronnie Pennington and Rick Ebel with four hits each while Dennis Kennedy had four for the Wolves.

The championship game was a very close contest with Farmers Insurance edging A-1 Golf Carts 14-13. Jeff Jay and Hoot Gibson stroked two doubles among their three hits each to lead the Farmers to victory. Ronnie Pennington and Doug Warwick stroked four hits each for the Golfers. Pennington and Warwick both went 15 for 19 in the tournament for a robust .789 average to lead their team to

within one run of the tournament title; but in the end, the well-balanced line-up of the Farmers prevailed.

Congratulations to Manager Tom Erpelding and the rest of the winning Farmers team!



The Championship squad: Front row, l-r: Tim Loeffler, Ralph Vasquez, Dennis Bernaiche, Spence Preston, Larry Kaufmann, Paul Gayer and Jim Wright. Back row, l-r: Evan Hansen, Mike Wolfe, Dick Bleich, Chuck Myrick, Steve Schaidler, Hank Harvey, Leigh Charboneau, Bill Corso, Jim Leckner, Dave Weibel and Manager Denny Davidson.

JUNE 2018

PONCHOS WIN SOUTHWEST SOFTBALL TOURNEY

By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Ponchos won the Major Division of the Southwest Senior Softball Championships held last month in Las Vegas. In addition to southwestern-based teams, the Major Division included squads from Colorado, Florida and Hawaii. After losing their first two games by close scores of 15-13 and 19-18, the Ponchos battled back to win

six of their final seven contests, including two wins in the finals against the strong Tri-State team from New Mexico.

Hitting was the name of the game for the Ponchos as they hit a collective .704 for the tournament. They also bashed out seventeen home runs with Paul Gayer leading the way with eight long balls. The team averaged twenty runs per contest. Defense also played a part in the victories as the infield turned eleven double plays and one triple play. The Ponchos outscored their opponents by 43 runs during the tournament.

Paul Gayer led all hitters with a .889 average. Larry Kaufmann, Tim Loeffler and Mike Wolfe also batted over .800.

Manager Denny Davidson said, “I really appreciated the team work and unselfishness of the whole team. Everyone was instrumental in helping us win the Championship.”

The team is sponsored by the Vasquez family’s Poncho’s Mexican Food and Cantina, located just north of Baseline on South Central Avenue. Denny Davidson is the field manager while Bill Corso is administrative manager. Evan Hansen is planning and personnel manager for the team.

Congratulations to the whole squad for bringing another world class senior softball championship to Sun Lakes!



Award winners Bill Stanick, Dennis McCarthy and Frank Rouse (Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

JUNE 2018

SUMMER SOFTBALL IS HERE!

By Larry Wolfe

Our second summer league began play in early May and will continue through September. We began playing “organized games” last summer with a three-team league. Due to heightened interest, this year our Summer League has expanded to five teams and the number of games scheduled has been greatly expanded. Apparently Sun Lakes can’t get enough of senior softball! Even during the dog days of summer, we still have our “Boys of Summer” out on the Field of Dreams.

The Summer League team sponsors and managers are: A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Kim Whitney; Frank Margiotta’s Farmers Insurance Agency, managed by Doug Freisen; Robson Ranch, managed by Randy Peterson; Ralph Vasquez’ State Farm Insurance Agency, managed by Jim Leckner; and, Terry & Susan Young’s Realty, managed by Rick Oien. The full Summer League schedule is posted on the Schedules Page of our website at www.sunlakessoftball.com.

Our Spring Season ended with double elimination tournaments in each of our Sun and Lakes Divisions. Tournament summaries may be found in separate articles in this edition of the *Splash*. Our annual awards were also presented during the tournaments. Congratulations to Lakes Division winners Bill Stanick (Batting Champion and Sportsman of the Year); Dennis McCarthy (Most Improved Player); and Frank Rouse (Rookie-of-the-Year).

Also congratulations go out to Sun Division winners Reyes Gonzales (Batting Champion); Kim Whitney (Sportsman of the Year); Jim Leckner (Most Improved Player), and Paul Gayer (Rookie-of-the-Year).

We welcome another new advertising sponsor this month. Jim Leckner's Revelation Real Estate Agency joined our family of Sun Lakes Senior Softball supporters. In addition, Dr. Gregory Evangelista's Orthopedic Clinic renewed their sponsorship. Dr. Evangelista has been an advertiser at the Field of Dreams since 2015. Links to all of our sponsors are on the Sponsors Page of our website.

Next month's news article will include our annual "stats summary." Why are baseball and softball fans and players so preoccupied with statistics? To quote *NY Times* Pulitzer Prize-winning sportswriter Arthur Daley, "A baseball fan has the digestive apparatus of a billy goat. He can and does devour any set of stats with insatiable appetite and then nuzzles hungrily for more." Next month we'll feed the billy goat!



The original “Boys of Summer,” the 1956 Brooklyn Dodgers.

“BOYS OF SUMMER” SOFTBALL SEASON’S UNDERWAY
By Larry Wolfe

“*The Boys of Summer*,” written by Roger Kahn, is a baseball classic. The title of the book refers to the Brooklyn Dodgers of the 1950s, a talented team that usually won the National League pennant only to lose the World Series to those Damn Yankees. In Sun Lakes we have our own “Boys of Summer,” the players who brave the heat to participate in our Summer Senior Softball League.

This is our second Summer League and we’ve expanded to five teams this year. The team sponsors are A-1 Golf Carts, Frank Margiotta’s Farmers Insurance Agency, Robson Ranch, Ralph Vasquez’ State Farm Insurance Agency and the Young Realty Team. Team managers of the five teams are Kim Whitney, Doug Freisen, Randy Peterson, Jim Leckner and Rick Oien, respectively. After the first ten games of the season, the standings were very close with A-1 leading the pack

with a 6-4 won-lost record. Robson Ranch and Young Realty were one game back, both sporting 5-5 records; the other two squads were both at 4-6, only two games back of the leaders.

The top hitters (based upon a minimum of 25 at bats) were Dan Melosi (.829), Steve Andrews (.786), Tom Kasunic (.774), Tom Chilton (.760), Ken Brenden (.758) and Reyes Gonzales (.731). Chilton and Gonzales led the league in homers with seven each, followed by Melosi (6) and Kasunic (5).

The Summer League season continues through September 20 with games every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Field of Dreams. Games start at 7 AM on Tuesdays and 8 AM on Thursdays.



Top Five Hitters in the Sun Division, l-r: Paul Gayer, Reyes Gonzales, Steve Hilby, Mark McKinnon and Larry Kaufmann (Photo by Core Photography)

JULY 2018

RECORD SETTING YEAR FOR SENIOR SOFTBALL

By Larry Wolfe

The 2017-18 softball year, including our fall, winter and spring sessions, saw seven individual hitting records set. It was truly the “year of the hitter.”

As promised in last month’s *Splash*, this is our annual overview of the major statistics that baseball and softball players and fans love to analyze. There are many views regarding the traditional stats such as batting average and homeruns versus the relatively new “advanced metrics” such as WAR (Wins Above Replacement) and BABIP (Batting Average on Balls In Play). Being seniors, we’ll stick to the traditional stats.

“Statistics are the lifeblood of baseball. In no other sport are so many available and studied so assiduously by participants and fans. Much of the game’s appeal lies in the opportunity the fan gets to back up opinions and arguments with convincing figures.”-Leonard Koppett in *A Thinking Man’s Guide to Baseball*.

There are those who think differently. Jim Bouton, author of *Ball Four*, says, “Statistics are about as interesting as first base coaches.” However, I think most baseball fans agree with Mr. Koppett. Former infielder Toby Harrah took the middle ground. He said “Statistics are like bikinis. They show a lot, but not everything!”

Here are our stats leaders for 2017-18 (an asterisk indicates an all-time record was set):

At bats: Tom Erpelding (394*), Jeff Jay 331, Doug Friesen (329)
Singles: Tom Erpelding (177*), Dennis McCarthy (158), Jeff Jay (154)
Doubles: Doug Friesen (47), Dennis LePore (38), Doug Warwick (33)
Triples: Tom Erpelding (13), Dan Bradfield (11), Three with 10
Home runs: Mark McKinnon (51*), Steve Hilby (48), Dan Melosi (38)
Total On Base: Tom Erpelding (269*), Bill Stanick (219), Steve Hilby (215)
Runs: Tom Erpelding (181*), Steve Hilby (168), Doug Friesen (155)
Walks: John Whitman (36*), Tom Erpelding (31), Steve Hilby (29)
Intentional Walks: Steve Hilby and Mark McKinnon (13). Kim Whitney (8)
Sacrifice Flies: Rick Ebel (12*), Dennis LePore (11), Two with 10
On Base Pct.: Reyes Gonzales (.825), Bill Stanick (.774), Steve Hilby (.754)
Slugging Pct.: Mark McKinnon (1.368), Reyes Gonzales (1.271), Steve Hilby (1.196)

Of the dozen stats tracked, Tom Erpelding set new highs in four different categories. It was also the “Year of the Long Ball,” as Mark McKinnon topped his record of 50 HRs set last year with 51 this year. In total, home runs were up 37% (489 vs. 358) and twenty players hit over ten each. (Was the ball “juiced” or were the players eating extra bowls of Wheaties?!) Let the discussions and arguments begin!



Tom Kasunic is ready for the pitch as Umpire Ken Brenden and catcher Reggie Reese look on.

AUGUST 2018

SIZZLING SUMMER SOFTBALL

By Larry Wolfe

- ❖ The temperatures are sizzling and so is the race for the Summer Softball League title. Through the first eighteen games for each team, there was only a three-game difference between the first and last place squads in the five-team league. A-1 Golf Carts and the Young Realty Team led the pack with

10-8 records followed by Farmers Insurance at 9-9. The boys from Robson Ranch had an 8-10 record while State Farm Insurance was at 7-11.

- ❖ Seven players were hitting over .700, led by Dan Melosi's robust .849. Reyes Gonzales (.771), Steve Andrews (.731), Tom Kasunic (.727), Larry Kaufmann (.725), Randy Peterson (.707) and Dennis Kennedy (.705) also topped the .700 mark. Tom Chilton led the league in homers with 14, closely followed by Dan Melosi (13) and Reyes Gonzales (12).

League play continues through September 20th. Three games are played every Tuesday morning beginning at 7 AM while two games are scheduled every Thursday morning beginning at 8 AM. Come by the Field of Dreams and cheer on our Boys of Summer! The field is also open on Monday and Saturday mornings for recreational play.

Thanks to Orbitel Communications for renewing their advertising banner at the field. Orbitel (previously Western Broadband) has been a loyal supporter of our program since 2005. See their website (www.orbitelcom.com) for information about their services available to the Sun Lakes community.

If you've looked for the monthly Softball Player Profile article and couldn't find it, it's because there is none this month. The profile writer took his annual scouting trip to Europe in search of foreign softball talent for our league and didn't have time for an interview. Unfortunately, all I found were some senescent soccer (aka futbol) players in Portugal, Spain and France and a few old bocce ball players in Italia! Maybe next year?



The Champion Desert Bats: Front row, l-r: Ron Carmichael, Manager Dave Rinaldo, Bill Sturgeon, Reyes Gonzales and Mike Gloyd. Back row, l-r: Larry Kaufmann, Mike Lebet, Dave Quenzler, Dave Platt, Doug Friesen, Steve Hilby, Rick Oien and John Martin.

SEPTEMBER 2018

DESERT BATS WIN PINETOP TOURNEY

By Larry Wolfe

The Desert Bats, one of our 60+ travel teams, recently won the Pinetop Tournament. The tourney featured teams from Payson, Tucson and New Mexico in addition to our Sun Lakes squad.

Manager Dave Rinaldo's boys started slowly, splitting four games in the seeding round of the tournament, but came back strong to sweep the elimination round. They first edged the Tucson Gavilanes 12-11 before crushing the No. 1 seeded Tucson Los Vatos team 19-6.

The Bats played a version of "small ball," relying on a high on base percentage, timely hitting and a strong defense to capture the title. In fact nearly 80% of their base runners eventually scored, an extreme example of hitting in the clutch. Larry Kaufmann led the Bats with a .889 average. He was supported by Reyes Gonzales

and John Martin, both at .800. The team as a whole had a robust .753 average. “Thin Rick” Oien had the Bats’ only homerun.

Congrats to Manager Rinaldo and the entire team for a hard-earned championship!



The July Birthday Softball Club Members

SEPTEMBER 2018

SLIDING INTO SEPTEMBER SOFTBALL

By Larry Wolfe

At press time, the Young Realty Team had opened up a four-game lead in the Summer League race for the pennant. Manager Rick Oien’s squad sported a 20-10 record with Manager Doug Friesen’s Farmers Insurance team at 16-14. Robson Ranch (15-15), A-1 Golf Carts (12-18) and State Farm Insurance (11-19) were struggling to keep up with the leaders.

“Dandy Dan” Melosi continued to lead the league with a robust .812 average. Four others topped the .700 mark: Reyes Gonzales (.731), Steve Andrews (.729), Thom Stephens (.707) and Larry Kaufmann (.704). Five players had slammed ten or more homeruns with Tom Chilton leading the way with twenty. Dan Melosi (17), Reyes Gonzales (14), Tom Kasunic (12) and Thom Stephens (10) are the other double-digit sluggers.

Our Summer Season continues through September 20th. We’ll then take a short hiatus from league play until late October. Recreational play will continue through that “lull” period. Check our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for updates and details.

A couple years ago Larry Kaufmann organized a get-together for all softball club members with July birthdays. Why? Why not? Their photo from this year’s birthday bash is shown above.



Jim Leckner prepares to unload a pitch in a recent Summer League contest.

OCTOBER 2018

YOUNG REALTY TEAM NEARS SUMMER TITLE

By Larry Wolfe

With two weeks and four games remaining in the Summer Softball season, the Young Realty team, managed by Rick Oien, had a four game lead over Manager Doug Friesen's Farmers Insurance squad. Young Realty sported a 25-13 record while the Farmers were at 21-17. One more win would catapult the Realtors to the title. If the suspense is killing you, go to our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com, for up-to-date news. We'll also recap the full Summer season in next month's edition of the *Splash*.

At press time, slugger Tom "The Big Bomber" Chilton was leading the league in homeruns with 27. Other double-digit big fly hitters included "Dandy Dan" Melosi (21), "Tom Terrific" Kasunic (15), "Gonzo" Gonzales (14) and Thom "with an H" Stephens (11).

Dan Melosi was on his way to the batting title with a robust .781 average. Bob Wicks was in second place at .704, followed by Larry Kaufmann (.695), Thom Stephens (.688) and Mike Lebet (.679).

The Field of Dreams will be closed down for over-seeding this fall. Check the website for dates and other details. We'll play at Chandler's Snedigar Park while waiting for our grass to "green up."

The Sun Division and Lakes Division Fall Leagues will start up in late October. Schedules, sign-up procedures and other information will be on the website later this month.

And speaking of our softball website, we're thinking of shutting it down. Why, you ask? Because it's not getting enough hits!



Big Bill Gaston shows the perfect swing in a recent contest.
(Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

NOVEMBER 2018

YOUNG REALTY WINS SUMMER SOFTBALL TITLE

By Larry Wolfe

The Young Realty team, managed by Rick Oien, won the Senior Softball Summer League title with a record of 25-15. Manager Doug Friesen's Farmers Insurance squad finished a close second while Manager Randy Peterson's Robson Ranchers finished third. Manager Kim Whitney's A-1 Golf Cart team placed fourth while Manager Jim Leckner's State Farm Insurance club languished in the fifth spot in the standings.

The Top Ten batters, based upon a minimum of eighty plate appearances, were: Dan Melosi (.789), Bob Wicks (.739), Steve Andrews (.716), Randy Peterson (.713), Larry Kaufmann (.695), Mike Lebet (.689), Thom Stephens (.688), Steve Hilby (.655), Tom Kasunic (.644) and Ken Brenden (.642). Tom Chilton was the home run leader with thirty. Others with double-digit homer totals were: Dan Melosi (24), Tom Kasunic (16), Reyes Gonzales (14), Thom Stephens (11) and Mark McKinnon (10).

The Summer League featured 103 games played over a 21-week period. The league was very competitive with forty-four of the games played being decided by two or fewer runs. The games included ten slugfests with over thirty runs scored between the two teams in those contests with Young Realty's 21-20 win over Farmers Insurance the top scoring game. At the other end of the spectrum, Robson Ranch edged State Farm Insurance 2-1 in an outstanding display of pitching and defense.

Given all the vacation travel and the number of sunbirds (the antonym of snowbirds!), it's necessary to use a lot of substitute players in the summer. Eighty-six different players participated at some level this summer. Thanks to all of them, and especially to the five managers mentioned in the first paragraph, for making the Summer Season a success. Additional kudos go out to Gary Hillbolt, the Summer League Coordinator, and to our league statistician extraordinaire, Cyndy Hilby, for compiling all the stats for the Summer Season.

Our thanks go out to Tresha Aschenbrener, owner of 360 Physical Therapy, for renewing her advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. She's been a consistent supporter of Sun Lakes Softball since 2004. Check out the Sponsors Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to learn more about 360 Physical Therapy and all of our other advertisers and team sponsors.

After a break of five weeks, it's now time for the opening games of our Fall Season in both the Sun and Lakes Divisions. See our website for the team rosters, schedules and other news.



Shortstop Gary Hillabolt turns a DP as outfielder Dan Bradfield and second sacker Joe Commisto look on. (Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

DECEMBER 2018

FALL SOFTBALL SEASON'S UNDERWAY

By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association opened its Fall Season in late October and it will continue through December 21. There are four teams in each of two divisions. The Lakes Division's team sponsors and managers are: A-1 Golf Carts (Mgr. Chris Jensen), Core Photography (Mgr. Randy Rothenbuehler), Wolfe & Associates (Mgr. Tom Erpelding) and the Young Home Team Real Estate Agency (Mgr. Gary Hillabolt). The Sun Division's team sponsors and managers are: Brenden Financial Services (Mgr. Ken Brenden), Frank Margiotta's Farmers Insurance Agency (Mgr. Mike Gloyd), Jim Leckner's Century 21 Real Estate Agency, aka Rustlers Real Estate (Mgr. Doug Friesen) and Ralph Vasquez' State Farm Insurance Agency (Mgr. Ron Carmichael).

League games are played on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Field of Dreams, located near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads. Two doubleheaders are played each day with the first game starting at 8 AM. We also have a recreational program with batting practice, fielding practice and/or pick-up games on Mondays and Saturdays. If you're interested in joining one of our programs, just come by the

field and ask to talk to a Board of Directors member. Additional information, schedules, team rosters, standings and batting statistics are available on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com).

Our ladies' team, the Sun Lakes Sluggers, will be starting league play in early January. They play in the Valley of the Sun League with several other teams from throughout the Valley. Practice is underway now. Check the Ladies Page on the website for more information.

Our thanks go out to Alice Schroeder and The Charles Company & Associates for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. The Charles Company, located at 9666 E. Riggs Road #136, offers a full range of insurance services. They've been supporters of Sun Lakes Softball since 2003. Sun Devil Auto also renewed their advertising banner. Sun Devil Auto, a family-owned and operated company with 19 locations throughout the valley, has been an advertiser since the year 2000.

We are pleased to welcome Right Away Disposal (RAD) as our newest advertising sponsor. RAD recently purchased Sun Lakes Disposal; they're the exclusive trash disposal company for the IronOaks community.

Go to the Sponsors Page on our website to learn more about these companies and all of our other advertisers and team sponsors.