

SENIOR SOFTBALL BITS & PIECES

By Larry Wolfe

The fall league season wrapped up on December 17. The league standings and batting leaders will be in next month's *Splash*. If you just can't wait, check out our website at <http://sunlakessoftball.com> for up-to-date information. Just click on the Stats page. Team sponsors and managers for the fall season were: A-1 Golf Carts (Manager Ed Kraemer); Brenden Financial Planning (Bill Beltz); Mutual of Omaha Bank (Rich Nadler); Desert Cove Nursing & Rehab Center (Bob Reeves); Grande Valley Golf Carts (Dennis Kennedy); and, Ralph Vasquez' State Farm Insurance Agency (Bob Yaryan). The winter-spring season will begin on Tuesday, January 5 and continue through mid-April.

We also have an informal Monday league which will restart on January 4 at 9 a.m. at the Field of Dreams. The Monday program is ideal for players who haven't played in a while, may be rehabbing from a bum knee or desire a more informal and laid-back experience. Call Red Waterfield at 480-895-6100 for more information.

The Sun Lakes Ladies' Team begins play in the ten-team Valley of the Sun League on Monday, January 4. The first home game at the Field of Dreams is scheduled for 1 p.m., Wednesday, January 6 versus the View Point ladies. See the Ladies Team tab on our website for the full schedule. Come out and support our ladies. For additional information you may also call team manager, Karen Kenyon, at 480-802-8473.

The Sun Lakes 70's Travel Team, managed by Larry Delaney, recently won the 2009 Winter World Championship held in Las Vegas. Team members Dave Boone, Ron Brown, Jack Hofeditz, John Seigla and Jesse Washington were named to the All-Tournament Team. Congratulations, champs!

Desert Cove player-manager Bob Reeves bowled a perfect 300 game in December. I guess we have a two-sport star in our midst! Nice going, Bob!!

A-1 Golf Carts Captures Fall League Softball Title

By Larry Wolfe

The A-1 Golf Carts team, managed by Ed Kraemer, won the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Fall League Championship with a record of 11-7. In a highly-competitive pennant race, there was a three-way tie for second place among Grande Valley Golf Cars, Mutual of Omaha Bank and State Farm Insurance. All three of those teams finished at 10-8, just one game behind the title winner. Six players finished the season with batting averages over 600 (based upon a minimum of 45 at bats). The top hitters were Howie

Dielmann and Bill Gateley at .667, followed by Tom Lorgan (.654), Jack Hofeditz (.651), Dan Bradfield (.639) and Jack Strauss (.617).

The Winter-Spring Season began on January 5 and will run through mid-April. Current team standings and player statistics may be found on our website (<http://sunlakessoftball.com>). Six games are played every Tuesday and Thursday beginning at 9 a.m. Come out to the Field of Dreams and watch the teams in action.

Our ladies team, the Sun Lakes Swingers, is also in the midst of their season. They compete in the Valley of the Sun League, which includes teams from ten local communities. Check the Ladies Team page on our website for their recent results and schedule and come out to the field to support our local ladies.

Senior Softball News Bits: March 2010
By Larry Wolfe

What were you doing on your 82nd birthday? If you were Jim Kilmartin, you were playing first base for the Mutual of Omaha Bankers in the Sun Lakes Senior Softball League. You also would have stroked a few line-drive base hits and made a few great plays on that day. Jim is the senior member of the softball group and is currently playing in his 19th season. Happy Birthday and congratulations, Jim!

The 70s Travel Team recently won a major tournament in Menifee, California. Player Bill Horne captured the essence of the victory in the following "Fairy Tale:"

"Once upon a time a group of old men found themselves without many of their star players due to injuries, operations or other conflicts. No Ronnie Brown; no Ronnie Pennington; no Hal Kime; no Paul Rost; and no Larry Delaney were available. However, it was at this time that the team was expected to go to the land of Milk and Honey (southern California) and face the Beasts of the West. There was much discussion among the players about whether to just stay home because there was no way they could be competitive without their best players. But these guys are men of character and conviction, so they decided to go take the beating that was surely coming.

Off they went to face the best that California had to offer in the Menifee Tournament. Of course, the opposition had never met the likes of “Dizzy Dean” Kreisman, “Slammin Bobby” Hutchins, “General” Bobby Reeves, “Pitbull” Watkins and “KP” Ponzio who were joined by team regulars Johnny Seigla, Denny Colbert, Jesse Washington, Jack Hofeditz, Eddie Kraemer, Dave Boone, Bill Horne and, of course, “Grand Slam” Johnny Hurst. This group was led by their cool and calculating commander, Henry Ellis.

Their best hope was to win one game so they wouldn't be totally embarrassed, but that's not the way fairy tales work. The team won six straight games to capture the tournament championship in what was a fairy tale ending. They went, they conquered, and they returned to Sun Lakes to live happily ever after!” Congratulations, guys!

Thanks to the following companies that recently renewed their sponsorships of advertising banners at the Field of Dreams: 360 Physical Therapy, Sidelines Grill and The Stone Center at Chandler Rock. Also, a hearty welcome to new sponsor Arizona Power-Save. Read more about them at www.azpower-save.com. To learn more about advertising opportunities at the field, click on the Sponsors Page on our website at <http://sunlakessoftball.com> or call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748.

Senior Softball News Bits

By Larry Wolfe

The State Farm Insurance team, managed by Bob Yaryan, won the Senior Softball Winter League Championship with a record of 17 wins and only 7 losses. A-1 Golf Carts and Brenden Financial Services, managed by Ed Kraemer and Bill Beltz, respectively, tied for second place with records of 13 and 11. The Spring Session is now well underway. League play ends on April 15, followed by a season-ending single elimination tournament on April 20. Tournament Day will also include a cook-out and an awards presentation ceremony. Everyone is welcome. Just come by the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads.

The annual softball banquet was held on March 1 in the IronOaks Ballroom. Over 150 men's and ladies team members, spouses and friends attended the event. The event was MC'd by Jesse Washington and featured entertainment by several team members and supporters. The first annual Spirit of Sun

Lakes Softball Award was presented to Dr. Roger Spark for his meritorious service to the organization. A great time was had by all.

The 70s Travel Team has had a busy schedule recently. They've participated in three tournaments, winning one and finishing second in the other two. Two others were scheduled for late March. We'll let you know how they fared in those in the next issue.

The Annual Sun Lakes All-Stars versus Sun Lakes Fire Department Games and Social Event are scheduled for Sunday, April 11. The games start at 9 a.m. and will be followed by a cookout. This event is always a highlight of the season. Come out to the Field and join in the fun and see if the old guys can beat the youngsters!

Thanks to Aluma-Line, Inc. and Sun Devil Auto Parts for renewing their billboard sponsorships at the Field of Dreams. Also, welcome new sponsors Coulter Motor Company-Tempe and Zounds Hearing, Inc. If your company would like to advertise at the Field, see our Sponsors Page on our website (<http://sunlakessoftball.com>) or call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748. Remember to support all of the sponsors who support the Sun Lakes community.

Sun Lakes 70s Do It Again!
By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes 70s softball tournament team, sponsored by Robson Ranch, won its second World Championship in late March. The tournament was held in Mesquite, NV and included over 100 teams in various brackets. The team won its first World Championship tourney last November. "Winning any World Championship tournament is very difficult," said Manager Larry Delaney, "but winning two in a row is very, very rare." Our guys roared through the first two days of competition undefeated, but then faced Fairway Ford of California, one of the nation's best teams, in the finals. Behind 13-5 entering the final inning, things looked bleak. But the team scored eight runs to tie it up, and then won in extra innings. "This team never gives up," said Coach Henry Ellis. "I'm extremely proud of all eighteen guys."

Besides the two World Titles, the team has won regional events in Menefee, CA and Phoenix within the past six months. Larry Delaney said a lot of the

success has been the players' willingness to play through injuries and sacrifice for each other for the good of the team. He also thanked Ed Robson and Robson Ranch for their financial support which allows the team to compete at the highest level.

In other news, the regular spring season wrapped up in April with a tournament, awards ceremony and social event. Award winners and final standings will be in next month's *Splash*. You can also check the latest news on our website: <http://sunlakessoftball.com>.

The Field of Dreams is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the summer for batting practice and pick-up games. Come on by or call Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for details.

We welcome new billboard advertiser Cork Restaurant. Cork is located at the Promenade at Fulton Ranch in Chandler. Also, thanks to the London Gold jewelry store for their recent financial support. If your business would like to advertise at the Field of Dreams, see the Sponsors page on our website or call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748 for more information.

Mutual of Omaha & Grande Valley Golf Are Softball Champs
By Larry Wolfe

The Mutual of Omaha team, managed by Rich Nadler, won the Spring Season Championship with a record of 16-8. A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Ed Kraemer, finished a close second at 14-10.

A season-ending tournament was held on April 20 with the Grande Valley Golf Cart team, managed by Dennis Kennedy, taking the title with a hard-fought 20-16 victory over runner-up A-1 Golf Carts. Grande Valley reached the finals thanks in part to a two-run walk-off home run by Dan Bradfield leading to a 15-13 win over Desert Cove in the semi-final game. Dennis LePore, Ken Ponzio and Harry Roehl led Grande Valley's attack in the championship game with three hits each. A large crowd enjoyed the games, including a bus load of fans from sponsor Desert Cove's Rehab Center.

Besides the five exciting games, the crowd also enjoyed a cook-out and awards ceremony. Art Isley was named Most Improved Player and Jim Kilmartin received the Sportsmanship Award. Certificates of Achievement were given to members of the 600 Club. The top hitters in the Men's League

and their batting averages were: Tim Loeffler (.717), Jack Strauss (.674), Frank Tanner (.657), Larry Kaufmann (.645), Dan Bradfield (.640), Billy Kee (.637), Jack Hofeditz (.634), Tom Lorgan (.634), Howie Dielmann (.623), Ron Brown (.615) and Bill Beltz (.602). Top hitters in the Ladies League were Charlene Ellis (.730), Terry Finley (.640), Calanie Bailey (.636) and Alyson Stephens (.600). Congratulations to all the winners.

We'd like to give a special thank you to this year's team sponsors: A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Planning, Desert Cove Nursing & Rehab Center, Grande Valley Golf Carts, Mutual of Omaha Bank and Ralph Vasquez's State Farm Insurance Agency.

Did you know? Our teams played a total of 198 regular season games. And our batters totaled 7,170 hits in 14,299 at bats for an "average average" of .501.

The Annual Sun Lakes All-Stars vs. Sun Lakes Fire Department Games and Social Event took place last month. The old timer All-Stars took the first game 17-16, but the youngsters from the Fire Department prevailed in the second contest 14-9. Bill Beltz led the victors in game one with two home runs. Chuck Myrick homered in the finale for the All-Stars. Thanks to Dr. Roger Spark and Jesse Washington for coordinating the event.

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, located at 905 N. 54th Street in Chandler, is our newest billboard sponsor. To become an advertising sponsor, see the Sponsors Page on our website (<http://sunlakessoftball.com>) or call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748. Remember to support the sponsors that support our community.

Even though our league play is over for now, our Boys of Summer continue to play ball. Our informal summer program began on April 22. The Field of Dreams is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning through October for batting practice and pick-up games. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for additional details.

Softball News Bits
By Larry Wolfe

The Spring League wrapped up in late April with the Grande Valley Golf Carts team capturing the post-season tournament. Now the informal summer league is in full swing. There are usually thirty plus players who show up every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning at the Field of Dreams for batting practice and a round-robin pick-up game. It's a great way to stay in shape during the long, hot summer. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for details.

Thanks to Debbie Wiltse's State Farm Insurance Agency (located in the Safeway shopping center on Alma School Road) and The Flooring Gallery (located at 9666 E. Riggs Road next to Ace Hardware) for renewing their sponsorships of billboards at the Field of Dreams. Both businesses signed on for an additional three years. If you'd like to advertise your business and support senior softball, call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748 or see the Sponsors Page on our website: <http://sunlakessoftball.com>.

Softball News Items By Larry Wolfe

Our Sun Lakes 65+ travel team, sponsored by Robson Ranch and managed by Denny Davidson, recently took second place in the Annual Pine Top Senior Softball Tournament. After winning their first five games, they lost the championship game by a 23-22 score. Tom Halloran led the team in batting with a .840 average.

Meanwhile, the Sun Lakes Eagles travel team, managed by Ken Brenden, didn't fare quite as well in that same tourney. The team played very competitive ball, but came out on the short end of the score in all five of their games. The top hitters for the Eagles were Angel Mandeville (.890), Ron Brown (.620) and John Newton (.550). According to a reputable unnamed source, team ownership may be looking at the Arizona Diamondbacks' recently-fired manager, A.J. Hinch, as a possible replacement for the Eagles' Ken Brenden. Check our website (<http://sunlakessoftball.com>) for the latest news and rumors.

Thanks to Netzel & Associates, located at 10450 E. Riggs Road, Suite 111 in Sun Lakes, and Desert Cove Nursing and Rehab Center, located at 1750 W. Frye Road in Chandler, for renewing their sponsorships of billboards at the Field of Dreams. If you'd like to advertise your business and support

senior softball, call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748 or see the Sponsors Page on our website.

Our informal summer program is still drawing 25 or more die-hards every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, even when our morning “lows” are 90-degrees plus. Batting practice begins at 7:30 a.m. and is followed by a pick-up game. All Sun Lakes residents are always welcome. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for more information.

Softball in the News
By Larry Wolfe

Our 60+ Travel Team, sponsored by Robson Ranch and managed by Bill Corso, is scheduled to play in the World Masters Tournament in Las Vegas in early September. The team is one of the tops in the country, having won several major tournaments and world championships during the past couple years. In addition, our two-time World Champion 70+ team, managed by Larry Delaney, will be playing in tournaments in Mesquite, NV and St. George, UT. Check this column next month to see how our guys did or check our website (<http://sunlakessoftball.com>) for more current news.

Thanks to Kokopelli Winery & Bistro at 35 W. Boston Street in old town Chandler for renewing their sponsorship of a billboard at the Field of Dreams. If you'd like to advertise your business and support senior softball, call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748 or see the Sponsors Page on our website.

Our informal summer program continues through October. We get together every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Batting practice begins at 7:30 a.m. and is followed by a pick-up game. All Sun Lakes residents are welcome to come by the Field of Dreams. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for more information.

I'm ending this column with a new feature: The Baseball Joke or Quote of the Month. (You can tell it's summer and there's not much news!) Here's the first one: What's the difference between a Yankee Stadium hotdog and a Wrigley Field hotdog? Answer: You can buy a Yankee Stadium hotdog in October!

Softball in the News

By Larry Wolfe

The World Champion 70's Travel Team has a busy upcoming schedule. They'll be participating in tournaments in Mesquite, NV and St. George, UT this month followed by the World Championships in Phoenix. They've also qualified for the Tournament of Champions which is held in February. Good luck guys! Call Manager Larry Delaney at 480-802-7282 for more details.

Sign-up dates for the upcoming fall season are October 19, 21 and 26 at the Field of Dreams. Come down and sign up for either the Monday Recreational League or the Tuesday-Thursday Competitive League. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for further information.

We have a few advertising banner openings at the Field of Dreams. It's an economical way to advertise your business and support the Sun Lakes recreational community. It's also a good way for charitable, civic and religious organizations to promote their organizations. Call Larry Wolfe at 480-480-2748 for details.

Keep abreast of all things that are Sun Lakes Senior Softball by visiting our website at <http://sunlakessoftball.com>. The site is updated frequently, so check back often.

Baseball Joke of the Month: What does a mama bear on the pill and the World Series have in common? Answer: No Cubs!

Softball in the News

By Larry Wolfe

The 70s Travel Team, managed by Larry Delaney, participated in the Mesquite, Nevada and St. George, Utah Senior Softball Tournaments in early-October. Results from those tourneys will be in next month's *Splash*. You can also check out all the recent news on our website: <http://sunlakessoftball.com>. The site is updated on a weekly basis during the season, so check back often.

All three of our travel teams qualified for the 2010 World Championship Tournament which was held in Phoenix from October 15-24. This

tournament is considered the premier event in Senior Softball. It included over 300 teams from across the U.S. and Canada as well as some international teams. More than 1200 games were played at twenty-nine softball fields at seven different complexes throughout the city. The tournament drew over 10,000 players and their families to the area. We'll also publish results of this tournament in next month's *Splash* and on our website.

Thanks to Bob & Sandy Thompson, Realtors, of Sun Lakes, our newest billboard advertiser at the Field of Dreams. If your business would like to advertise with a banner on the outfield wall, call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748 or see the Sponsors Page on our website for more information.

Teams have been selected for the upcoming fall season that begins on November 2. Come by the field on Tuesday and Thursday mornings to watch our guys in action. In the process of putting together our team rosters, our players are rated according to skill level so that the Team Selection Committee can attempt to equalize the talent level on each team. Here's a note on Mike Core's recent scouting report: "Very deceptive. Much slower than he looks."

Who Are These Guys?
Softball 70s World Champs Again!
By Larry Wolfe & Bill Horne

In early October, our 70s Travel Team, sponsored by Robson Ranch, brought home a silver medal from the 24th annual Huntsman World Senior Tournament held in St. George, Utah. They placed second to the Michiana Merchants team from Portland, Michigan in that tourney. But that was just a warm up.....

Our guys then won an unprecedented third World Championship Tournament that was recently held in Phoenix. Over 300 teams from around the country, along with some international teams, participated in what is one of the largest senior softball tournaments in the U.S. Our guys swept through the tourney like Hurricane Katrina, obliterating every team in its path. They posted a perfect 8-0 record in capturing their third title in the past two years. In doing so, they had an unbelievable team batting average of .680 and scored 155 runs! Billy Kreisman was named team MVP, posting two wins on the mound and hitting .867. Ron Pennington led all hitters, making only

one out in the eight games! In addition, Dave Boone, Ron Brown, Bob Hutchins, Paul Rost and Jesse Washington all batted over .700. The defense was led by Dennis Colbert who made several sparkling catches.

The team is managed by Larry Delaney. He's assisted by Coaches Henry Ellis and Bruce Watkins and scorekeeper Anita Boone. The team is sponsored by Robson Ranch. Manager Delaney expressed the team's gratitude to Mr. Ed Robson for his continuing support of the team. Congratulations to our World Champs, AGAIN!

Senior Softball News By Larry Wolfe

The Annual Sun Lakes Senior All-Stars vs. the Sun Lakes Fire Department Games & Social Event took place on November 5. The seniors pounded out a 25-9 victory in the first game, but the youngsters game back to win the second contest 19-11. A good time was had by all.

Our 70s Travel Team continued its remarkable run of championships by capturing the Annual Fountain Hills Tournament that was held in early November. Congrats again, guys!

The Sun Lakes Competitive League got underway on November 2. Games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Field of Dreams. The 20-game fall season wraps up on December 16. A big thank you goes out to our 2010-2011 team sponsors: A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Planning Services, Desert Cove Nursing & Rehab Center, Grande Valley Golf Carts, Mutual of Omaha Bank and Ralph Vasquez' State Farm Insurance Agency. Also, thanks to the many volunteers who make our Association and league one of the best in the country. Those volunteers include our team managers, umpires, scoreboard operators and scorekeepers. Our managers this year are: Bill Corso, Ken Brenden, Dennis Kennedy, Larry Kaufmann, Dennis Bernaiche and Eddie Kraemer. The coordinator and scheduler of our umpires, scoreboard operators and scorekeepers is Dennis LePore.

We welcome two new billboard advertising sponsors this month: Gilbert Hospital ("From Door to Doc in 31 Minutes!") and the Buckeye Boys, who dedicated their sign to The Ohio State Buckeyes and Wapakoneta (Ohio) Redskins. Also, thanks to Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino Resort which renewed

its sponsorship for an additional three years! There are only a couple spaces left, so if you'd like to advertise your business or organization with a billboard on our outfield fence, call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748 or see the Sponsors Page on our website (<http://sunlakessoftball.com>).

The Ladies softball team will begin practice in early December. For information, call Manager Karen Kenyon at 480-802-8473.

Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Ron Olson. Ron played in our league for the past few years. He passed away in October after a valiant fight against leukemia. He will be missed.