

ARCHIVES: 2017 Softball Articles

JANUARY 2017

WINTER SOFTBALL SEASON EXPANDS TO TWO DIVISIONS

By Larry Wolfe

Beginning on opening day for our Winter League on January 3rd, we'll have two divisions. Given the growth in our league to eight teams and, given the wide range of ages of our members (from mid-50s to low-80s), we'll have two four-team divisions, the Sun Division and the Lakes Division. Thanks to the following team sponsors: A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Services, Core Photography, Farmers Insurance (Frank Margiotta's Agency), the Real Estate Rustlers (Jim Leckner's Revelation Realty Agency), State Farm Insurance (Ralph Vasquez' Agency), Wolfe & Associates and Terry & Susan Young's Real Estate Agency.

Winter League team managers are Ken Brenden, Mike Gloyd, Gary Hillabolt, Jim Leckner, Dave Rinaldo, Randy Rothenbuehler, TJ Tjernlund and John Whitman.

At press time, we were entering the final week of our Fall Season. The fight for the pennant was going down to the wire with Farmers Insurance, managed by Gary Hillabolt, and Jim Leckner's Real Estate Rustlers both sporting 11-5 records. The Young Realtors, managed by Mike Gloyd, were only one game back. John Whitman was leading the league in hitting with an incredible .911 average while Reyes Gonzalez and Tom Kasunic were hitting over .800. We'll recap the Fall Season in next month's *Splash*. You can also visit our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com, for current information.

Thanks to our local Walgreen's for renewing their advertising banner. Walgreen's, located at the corner of Riggs and Alma School Roads, is our longest continuous advertising sponsor, first advertising at our prior field back in 1998.

FEBRUARY 2017
REAL ESTATE RUSTLERS WIN FALL LEAGUE PENNANT
By Larry Wolfe

The Real Estate Rustlers, managed and sponsored by Jim Leckner, captured the Fall League softball championship. The Rustlers 13-5 won-lost record edged out Gary Hillabolt's Farmers Insurance squad by one game. The Rustlers' John Whitman led all hitters with an unheard of .923 average! Reyes Gonzalez (.831), Tom Kasunic (.814), Mark McKinnon (.794) and Tim Loeffler (.789) rounded out the remainder of the Top Five. Congrats, guys!

Our Winter League is now well underway in both our Sun Division and Lakes Division. Each team has an 18-game schedule with games played on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. League play wraps up on February 10 and is followed by a three-day double elimination tournament in each division. Check out our website at www.sunlakessoftball for up-to-date standings and other news.

Our Lady Sluggers' season is well underway. The February home games schedule is as follows: February 6 vs. The Stingers; February 8 vs. Sunland Village East; February 13 vs. Canyon Vistas; February 15 vs. Valle Del Oro; and February 20 vs. Fountain of the Sun. All games are played at the Field of Dreams. Game times are all at 12 noon. Come out and cheer our ladies on to victory!

MARCH 2017
BRENDEN FINANCIAL TEAM WINS SUN DIVISION PENNANT
By Larry Wolfe

Manager Ken Brenden led his Brenden Financial Planning team a 10-6 record to win the Winter League Sun Division pennant. The Planners had three Top Ten hitters: Mark McKinnon, Larry Kaufmann and Tom Lorgan and a solid line-up from top to bottom. The Terry & Susan Young Realty team, managed by Mike Gloyd, and the Real Estate Rustlers, managed and sponsored by Jim Leckner, tied for second place with .500 records.

The Top Ten hitters in the Sun Division were: Reyes Gonzales (.882), Mark McKinnon (.818), John Whitman (.804), Tom Kasunic (.752), Larry Kaufmann (.748), Dan Melosi (.716), Tim Loeffler (.716), Chuck Myrick (.701), Dick Bleich (.691) and Tom Lorgan (.675).

The Spring League started in late February. Check our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for current news and up-to-date standings.

SAVE THE DATE! Our Annual Spring Banquet will be held on Monday evening, March 27, in the Oakwood Ballroom. In addition to current Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association members, any former members or fans are invited to attend. Contact Larry or Pat Wolfe (480-802-2748) for ticket information. The deadline for purchasing tickets is March 15.

MARCH 2017
Wolfe & Associates Capture Lakes Division Title
By Larry Wolfe

Rookie Manager Randy Rothenbuehler got his Sun Lakes Softball managerial career off to a great start by leading his Wolfe & Associates team to a 13-5 record and the Lakes Division Winter League Senior Softball title. The Farmers Insurance squad, sponsored by the Frank Margiotta Agency and managed by Gary Hillabolt, also finished 13-5, but lost a tie-breaker to the Wolves.

The Top Ten hitters in the Lakes Division were: Bill Stanick (.705), Gary Hillabolt (.698), John Siegla (.673), Hal Kime (.662), Rick Ebel (.655), Hoot Gibson (.641), Bill Gaston (.639), TJ Tjernlund (.636), Jim Dunn (.625) and Jeff Jay (.617).

The Spring League started in late February. Check our website for current news and up-to-date standings regarding the Lakes Division.

We welcome a new billboard sponsor this month, the Iowa Hawkeyes' Sun Lakes fans. Two long-time advertisers renewed their sponsorship: Aluma-Line, Inc., owned and operated by Dan Schneider, has been a loyal sponsor since 2003 while the Flooring Gallery has advertised at the Field of Dreams since 2007. Thanks to all of our advertisers and team sponsors who help us maintain a first-class program. If your organization or business is interested in advertising, please call Larry Wolfe at 480-802-2748 or see the Sponsors Page on our Website: www.sunlakessoftball.com. You can also find links to all of our sponsors' websites on that page.

APRIL 2017

Farmers Insurance Captures Lakes Division Tourney Crown
By Larry Wolfe

A three-day modified double elimination tournament was held after the conclusion of the Lakes Division Winter League season. The exciting tournament included four one-run games out of the six games played.

In the opener, the Wolfe & Associates team, managed by Randy Rothenbuehler, beat the A-1 Golf Carts squad, managed by TJ Tjernlund, by a 12-7 score. Dan Bradfield led the winners with a perfect 4 for 4 day while Jeff Jay, Harry Roehl and Steve Holliger paced the Golfers. In the second game, the Farmers Insurance team, managed by Gary Hillbolt and sponsored by the Frank Margiotta Agency, edged the Core Photography club, managed by Dave Rinaldo, by a razor-thin 18-17 margin. The Farmers banged out 27 hits with Gary Alexander and Jesse Washington collecting four safeties each while John Siegla led the Cameramen with four hits.

On day two, the A-1 Golfers eliminated Core's Cameramen 22-12. Jeff Jay and Harry Roehl each contributed four hits to the winning cause while Bill Stanick paced the Cameramen with four hits of his own. The Wolfe & Associates team then skimmed by the Farmers squad by a 10-9 score. Hoot Gibson and Bill Gaston led the Wolfe Pack with three hits each while five different players had two hits a piece for the Farmers.

On the final day of play the Farmers ousted A-1 by a 16-15 count. Dennis LePore, Gary Hillbolt, Chris Jensen and Jesse Washington each had three hits for the Farmers while the Golfers were led by Jeff Jay with four base knocks. The Wolves then hosted the Farmers in the championship game with the Farmers making an incredible comeback to win the championship. The Farmers were down seven runs in the final inning before tying the game and forcing an extra inning of play where the Farmers prevailed. Jim Dunn went five for five for the Farmers while teammates Dennis LePore and Jesse Washington supported the cause with four safeties. Bill Stanick, Hoot Gibson, Brian Jette and Tom Vitolo each had three hits for the Wolves. The game featured an incredible 54 hits with the Farmers collecting 31 in their thrilling 24-23 comeback victory!

BUNTS & SHORT HOPS:

We welcome another new advertising sponsor this month. Dr. Robert Hamburg of Central Arizona Heart Specialists is our newest sponsor. Thanks to him and all of our other advertising and team sponsors. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for links to all of our supporters.

The Spring Leagues in both our Sun and Lakes Divisions are nearing conclusions. After league play ends, we'll have end-of-season tournaments, a cook-out and our annual awards ceremony. Check the website for details.

APRIL 2017

Young Realty Wins Sun Division Tourney
By Larry Wolfe

A modified double elimination tournament was held after the close of the Sun Division Winter League season. The three-day event featured many close and exciting games, especially on the final day of play.

In the opening game, the Brenden Financial Planning Services team, managed and sponsored by Ken Brenden, came from six runs down in the final inning to beat the State Farm Insurance squad 14-13. The State Farm club was managed by John Whitman and sponsored by the Ralph Vasquez Agency. Randy Neumann led the Insurers, going 4 for 4 with three doubles while Doug Friesen went 4 for 4 for the Planners. In the second game, the Young Realty team, managed by Mike Gloyd and sponsored by Terry & Susan Young, beat the Real Estate Rustlers, managed and sponsored by Jim Leckner, by a 20-12 score. Sam Giordano led the Young Realtors with four hits while Tim Loeffler and Mike Otman banged out three hits a piece for the Rustlers. It was a tight contest until the final inning when the Realtors piled on seven runs to take a commanding lead.

On the second day of play the State Farm club eked out a 15-14 win over the Rustlers, eliminating them from the tournament. The Insurers launched seven home runs in that game with Kim Whitney and Dan Melosi each clubbing two. Manage Leckner led his team with three hits. In game two the Young Realtors bested Brenden's Planners by a 20-8 score. Mike Willits led the way for the Realtors with four hits while Sam Giordano had four for the Planners.

On the third and final day of the tourney, Brenden's boys nudged the State Farm team 11-10, coming from behind again in a thrilling down-to-the-wire contest. Larry Kaufmann and Mark McKinnon both clubbed two homers for the winners

while Billy Kee led the losers with three hits. That game eliminated State Farm and set up the championship game between Brenden's boys and the Young Realtors. Brenden's team jumped out to an early 12-3 lead, but the Young Realtors kept pecking away and eventually took the game and the tournament championship with an 18-15 victory. The victors smacked six home runs with Steve Hilby and Mike Otman both hitting two out of the park. Mark McKinnon hit two for the losing squad.

MAY 2017

Dave Rinaldo Named Softball Spirit Award Winner
By Larry Wolfe

Our Annual Softball Banquet was recently held in the Oakwood Ballroom. Over 140 attendees enjoyed a great meal and program, with entertainment and dancing to the music of Maddy & Friends after the program. Thanks to Pat Wolfe, overall coordinator of the event, and to Mike Core for providing the program entertainment and for providing each Association member with a replica 1959 baseball card and photo of themselves. Also, thanks to Tim Loeffler and Cindy Schaider for donating items for our raffle. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the annual Spirit of Sun Lakes Softball Award to Dave Rinaldo. Dave goes "above and beyond" in providing infield maintenance and preparing the field for our many game days and he's also a team manager.

Board members and Officers for the 2017-2018 seasons are as follow: Sam Giordano, President; Bill Corso, Vice President; Steve Hilby, Secretary; Larry Wolfe, Treasurer; and Members-at-Large Mike Core, Jim Leckner and Jesse Washington.

At press time our spring season was winding down. A recap of the regular season, season-ending tournament and award winners will be in next month's *Splash*. If you can't wait, go to our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date information.

Thanks to Drs. Mary Peters and Robert Evans of Ocotillo Foot & Ankle for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. They've been loyal sponsors of our program since 2011. See the Sponsor's Page on our website for links to all of our valued team and advertising sponsors.



Sun Division Champions: Standing, 1-r: Gene Granquist, Kim Whitney, Doug Friesen, Larry Kaufmann & Harry Roehl. Kneeling, 1-r: Dan Bradfield, Mgr. Ken Brenden, Mike Willits & Tom Lorgan (Photo by Core Photography, LLC.)



Lakes Division Champions: Standing, 1-r: Dennis LePore, Dennis Colbert, Jese Washington, Team Sponsor Larry Wolfe, Mgr. Randy Rothenbuehler, Mike Fink & Bill Stanick. Kneeling, 1-r: Stan Weiss, Jim Entwistle, Ralph Vasquez, Bill Kriesman & Jeff Jay (Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

JUNE 2017

Brenden Financial and Wolfe & Associates Win Spring Softball Titles
By Larry Wolfe

The Brenden Financial Planning team, managed by Ken Brenden, won the Spring Sun Division League title with a sterling record of 15-3. In the Lakes Division, the Wolfe & Associates squad, managed by Randy Rothenbuehler, topped their division with a record of 12-6.

A recap of the season-ending double elimination tournaments will be covered in the next edition of the *Splash*.

We now enter our summer recreational program. The Field of Dreams is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning for batting practice and pick-up games. This is the perfect opportunity to get in shape for next fall's formal league play. See our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for start times and other information.

Here are the top five hitters in each division covering all three seasons (fall, winter & spring) and based upon a minimum of 150 at bats, excluding the spring tournaments:

Sun Division: Reyes Gonzalez (.873), Mark McKinnon (.817), John Whitman (.765), Larry Kaufmann (.755) and Steve Hilby (.750).

Lakes Division: Bill Stanick (.753), Jim Entwistle (.713), John Seigla (.689), TJ Tjernlund (.661) and Hal Kime (.658).

Congratulations to Reyes Gonzales, who set a new all-time hitting record with his .873 average this year. The previous record of .838 was set by Mike Wolfe in 2012 and matched by Larry Kaufmann in 2013.

Our thanks go out to Dr. Kent Saba and Dr. Robert Romanin of Saba & Romanin Dental Associates for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. The good doctors have been advertising at the field since the year 2000, making them number two in "seniority" to Walgreens (1998). Thanks to all of our advertisers and team sponsors. Go the Sponsors Page on our website to see who supports Sun Lakes softball and support them in return.



Lakes Division Tourney Champs: Standing, l-r: Steve Holliger, Chuck Swanson, Hoot Gibson, Tom Erpelding, Tom Vitolo and Dennis LePore. Kneeling, l-r: Mgr. John Seigla, Bill Maxwell, Ron Pennington, Dave Boone and Team Owner Mike Core. (Photo by Core Photography)

JULY 2017

Core Photography Wins Lakes Division Tourney By Larry Wolfe

On day one of the three-day double elimination Lakes Division Spring Tournament, Manager John Seigla led his Core Photography squad to a 12-6 victory over A-1 Golf Carts, managed by TJ Tjernlund. Manager Seigla went 4 for 4 for the victors while Stevie Kay and Gary Alexander laced out three hits each for the losing team. The second game featured the top-seeded Wolfe & Associates team, managed by Randy Rothenbuehler, facing the fourth-seeded State Farm Insurance team, managed by Dave Rinaldo. The Wolves cruised to a 15-9 victory with Ralph Vasquez leading the way with four hits. Mike Torreano had four hits in the losing cause.

On the second day of the tournament, the Photographers surprised the Wolves with a 14-8 win. Chuck Swanson paced the Lensmen with five hits; Manager Seigla had four. Bill Stanick went 4 for 4 for the Wolves. Game two was the most exciting contest of the tournament with the State Farm Insurers topping the A-1 Golfers 24-23 in an extra-inning slugfest. Bob Hutchins and Mike Torreano led the Insurers with four hits each while TJ Tjernlund and Dom Colonna each had four hits for A-1.

The semi-finals and championship games were played on day three with State Farm upsetting Wolfe & Associates 10-2 to move into the championship contest versus Core Photography. Wes Reynolds and Bob Hutchins paced the Insurers with three hits each.

The fourth-seeded Insurers, who finished the regular season at 6-12, almost pulled another upset versus the two-seed Photographers. Trailing 11-5 going into the final inning, the Insurers plated four runs and had the tying runners on base before their last hurrah ended in an 11-9 loss. Seven Lensmen had two hits apiece in the champions' well-balanced attack with everyone reaching base at least once. Manager Seigla praised his squad for hanging in there under pressure and coming away with a "Photo-finish" victory!



Sun Division Tourney Champs: Standing, l-r: Mgr. Gary Hillabolt, Steve Hilby, Tom Schneider, Bill Corso and Sam Giordano. Kneeling, l-r: Gregg Peterson, Dennis Bernaiche, Mike Willits, Tim Loeffler and Dennis Kennedy. (Photo by Core Photography)

JULY 2017

Farmers Insurance Are Sun Division Upset Kings By Larry Wolfe

Who'd have think it!? The Farmers Insurance team, managed by Gary Hillabolt, surprised everyone with their upset win in the Sun Division Softball Tournament. The Farmers finished the regular Spring League season in last place with an underwhelming record of 4-14, but come tournament time, they played like champions. Here's a recap of the double elimination season-ending tourney:

In the opening game the Farmers faced the number one seed, Brenden Financial Planning, managed by Ken Brenden. The Planners had coasted to the regular season crown with a record of 15-3, a full nine games better than the Farmers. In an exciting extra inning contest, the Farmers eked out an 11-10 win sending the Planners to the losers' bracket. Dennis Bernaiche and Tim Loeffler led the winners

with four and three hits, respectively. Mark McKinnon led Brenden's team with three safeties.

The Real Estate Rustlers, managed by Jim Leckner, easily dispatched the Young Realty team, managed by Mike Gloyd, in game number two. Tom Kasunic, Dave Martin and Randy Neumann led the Rustlers to a 19-10 victory. Kasunic and Neumann each slugged two homers while Martin went a perfect 4 for 4 with 4 runs scored. Tom Cheney and Dave Armstrong led the Realtors with three hits each.

On the second day of the tournament the upstart Farmers edged the Rustlers 14-11 with Tim Loeffler again leading the way by going 5 for 5. Mike Otman and Roger Wisslead paced the Rustlers with three hits apiece. In the second contest, the Young Realtors surprised and eliminated the top-seeded Brenden Financial Planners with a convincing 21-11 win. The Realtors banged out 28 hits with Dick Bleich going 5 for 5. He was supported by Chuck Schaan, Dave Armstrong and Gary Hatch who each had four hits. Dave Martin went 4 for 4 in the losing cause.

In the semi-final contest, the Young Realtors beat the Rustlers 19-11. Everyone in the Realtors line-up garnered at least two hits (25 in all) with Reyes Gonzales and Dave Armstrong bashing long homeruns. Dan Bradfield went 4 for 4 for the Rustlers.

In the championship game, the "Miracle Workers," otherwise known as the Farmers Insurance team, coasted to an 18-6 drubbing of the Young Realtors. Sam Giordano paved the way, going a perfect 5 for 5. The Realtors were limited to ten hits compared to 25 for the champions. When asked how a 4-14 team can go undefeated during a tough tournament, Manager Hillabolt said, "It must be managerial genius!" Congratulations, Farmers Insurance!



Steve “Why Run When You Can Walk” Kay, our leader in unintentional walks for the 2016/17 seasons (Photo by Core Photography)

AUGUST 2017

Summer Softball Update
By Larry Wolfe

For the first time ever, the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association has implemented a “short season” summer league on an experimental basis. It seems that the non-snowbirds need a little competitive action to get them through the long, hot summer. We always have had a recreational program during the summer months consisting of batting practice and pick-up games. That program will continue, but Tuesdays will be reserved for league play. Check our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for start times, schedules and other information.

It seems that nearly all softball and baseball fans and players love stats. Maybe it’s due to the “stop and go” nature of the game. Or maybe it’s the fact that every single pitch is quantified and that in itself creates statistics. Indeed, every play can be categorized and quantified. All baseball fans can thank one Henry Chadwick who developed the box score, batting average and pitcher’s earned run average.

His first box score dates back to 1859. We've come a long way since then and there are now so many advanced measurements that even the biggest fan has difficulty understanding them all (think WAR, VORP and BABIP).

Anyhow, here's a bunch of "understandable stats" leaders from our 2016-17 seasons. At Bats: Doug Friesen (325), Hoot Gibson (297) and Tom Erpelding (284). Runs Scored: Doug Friesen (142), Tom Kasunic (140) and Reyes Gonzales (133). Walks: Stevie Kay (31), Ron Pennington (27), John Whitman & Art Hamer (25 each). Intentional Walks: Reyes Gonzales (32), Mark McKinnon (31) and Steve Hilby (13). Singles: Jeff Jay (123), Gene Granquist and Doug Friesen (120 each). Doubles: Tom Kasunic (47), Doug Friesen (45) and Bill Stanick (34). Triples: Bill Stanick (20), Dan Bradfield (10) and Tommy Lorgan (9). Homeruns: (Mark McKinnon (50), Reyes Gonzales (40) and Roger Wisslead (29). Total Times Reaching Base: Reyes Gonzales (200), Doug Friesen (197) and Hoot Gibson (189). (The Top Five batting average leaders in both the Sun and Lakes Divisions were included in the June edition of the *Splash*.)

Mark McKinnon's 50 round trippers set an all time record, besting the 42 taters hit by Steve "Hawkeye" Hilby last year. "Mark the Masher" hit his 50 homers in only 197 plate appearances, meaning he homered once out of every four times up! When Babe Ruth hit his 60 homeruns in 1927, he hit one for every 11.5 plate appearances. And when Mark McGwire hit his 70 steroid-aided homers back in 1998, he did so once in every 9.7 plate appearances. "Wild Bill" Stanick's twenty three-baggers also set a record as did Reyes Gonzales' 200 total bases and Stevie Kay's 31 bases on balls. Congrats to all of our "stats leaders!"



Steve Hilby coordinates a summer pick-up game. (It's kind of like trying to herd squirrels or feral cats!) Photo by Core Photography, LLC)

SEPTEMBER 2017

Sizzlin' Summer Softball By Larry Wolfe

As the temperatures continue to exceed 100 degrees, our summer softball program continues to sizzle. Our “experimental” summer league was such a success that we continued the program through September. Our full program now includes batting and fielding practice on Mondays, Summer League play on Tuesdays and batting practice and pick up games on Thursdays and Saturdays. Newcomers are always welcome. Check out our website at www.sunlakessoftball.com for more information.

Registration for our 2017-2018 programs will begin September 25 and end on October 14. It is imperative that you sign up by the deadline if you wish to participate in league play. There will again be two divisions with players assigned to divisions based upon skill levels. We will also continue our more informal

recreational program on Saturdays throughout the year. Check the website for specific dates and details. There will also be a Registration Form on the website.

You can stop looking for the monthly player profile article. The author (who doubles as an international talent scout) was out of the country on an international scouting mission and didn't have time to do an interview. Alas, no suitable senior softball players were discovered in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia or the Netherlands. There were lots of guys who looked the part: gray (or no) hair with wrinkles and a limp, but they couldn't hit a Billy Kreisman or Reggie Reese "floater!" I guess I should have checked out the Dominican Republic and Venezuela where Major League baseball finds most of their international players!

We were saddened to learn of the passing of former softball player Barry Ediss. Barry was a slick-fielding, strong-armed shortstop and solid hitter who last played in our league in 2010. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Carroll, his family and many friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with long-time Association member Bob Reeves, whose wife Barbara passed away in early August.



Billy Kreisman, the “Human Pitching Machine,” throws batting practice at the Field of Dreams. (Photo courtesy of Core Photography, LLC)

OCTOBER 2017

Play Ball! Fall Softball Season Set to Open
By Larry Wolfe

The fall softball season will open late this month at the Field of Dreams. We’ll again have two divisions with four teams each, the Sun and Lakes Divisions. Players are assigned to the divisions based upon skill level to ensure a fair and competitive playing environment. Sign-ups began September 25 and will continue through October 14. Applications are available online. It is imperative that we receive your applications and dues by the deadline. We also have a recreational program on Saturday mornings for those not interested in formal league play or those “youngsters” who may still be working. Check our website at www.sunlakessoftball.com for additional information.

Some of our practice sessions for the new season will be held on fields 5 and 6 at Snedigar Park on Alma School Road while our outfield is being over-seeded. Check the website for specific dates.

Thanks to Tresha Baldwin, owner of 360 Physical Therapy, for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. Tresha has supported our program consistently since 2004. The company has multiple locations throughout the Valley with one at 25229 S. Sun Lakes Blvd. in Sun Lakes. If your company or organization would like an advertising or promotional banner at the field, see the Sponsors Page on our website or call or email Larry Wolfe (480-802-2748 or larryewolfe@msn.com).



Reyes Gonzales and Randy Rothenbuehler gather softballs at summer batting practice. Now it's time for the real thing!
(Photo by Core Photography)

NOVEMBER 2017

FALL SOFTBALL SEASON IS UNDERWAY

By Larry Wolfe

The fall softball season will open in late October with four teams in each of the Sun and Lakes Divisions. This year's team managers in the Sun Division are Ken Brenden, Ron Carmichael, Mike Gloyd and Tom Kasunic. The Lakes Division managers are Dave Rinaldo, Randy Rothenbuehler, John Seigla and TJ Tjernlund. Team sponsors are A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Services, Core Photography, Farmers Insurance (Frank Margiotta's Agency), Real Estate Rustlers (sponsored by Jim Leckner's Agency), State Farm Insurance (Ralph Vasquez' Agency), Terry & Susan Young Real Estate and Wolfe & Associates Accounting Services. Thanks to all the managers and team sponsors!

Check the Stats Page on our website at www.sunlakessoftball.com for up-to-date standings and batting statistics. There is also information on the website about our recreational program and our ladies team, the Sun Lakes Sluggers.

Thanks to Oakwood Family Dental Care (formerly Jones Family Dental Care) for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. They're located at 4920 S. Alma School Road in Chandler. If your company or organization would like an advertising or promotional banner at the field, see the Sponsors Page on our website or call or email Larry Wolfe (480-802-2748 or larryewolfe@msn.com) for more information.



Is it out of here? Batter Dan Bradfield swings away while catcher Bob Hutchins and umpire Steve Hilby look on.

(Photo by Tim Stock of Core Photography)

DECEMBER 2017

FALL SOFTBALL SEASON'S IN FULL SWING

By Larry Wolfe

Our Fall Season opened on October 24 and will conclude on December 15. In the early going, the Core Photographers got off to a 6-0 start in the Lakes Division while Brenden's Financial Planners and Leckner's Rustlers Realty led the Sun Division with 4-2 records. Mike Otman led the Sun Division with an .844 average while Tom Erpelding paced the Lakes Division with an .826 average. For up-to-date standings and batting statistics, go to the Stats Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com). There is also information on the website about our recreational program and our ladies team, the Sun Lakes Sluggers.

Did you know? This is the 32nd year for the Sun Lakes Senior Softball program. Founded in 1985, the program has grown from one team that played other area

teams to now include two four-team men's divisions, age group tournament teams and a ladies' team that plays in the Valley of the Sun League as well as a non-league recreational program.

Many thanks to Sun Devil Auto, The Charles Company & Associates, Wolfe & Associates, Frank Margiotta's Farmers Insurance Agency and Retirement Insurance Specialists for renewing their advertising banners at the Field of Dreams. Sun Devil Auto has advertised at the Field of Dreams since the year 2000. They have 20 locations throughout the Valley with a Sun Lakes repair shop at 9716 E. Riggs Road. The Charles Company and President Alice Schroeder have supported Sun Lakes softball since 2003. Wolfe & Associates, a local accounting services company, has advertised at the field every year since 2007 while both Frank Margiotta and RIS have been sponsors since 2011. Both Frank Margiotta's Agency and Wolfe & Associates are also team sponsors. Find out more about these companies by going to the Sponsors Page on our website and support the companies that in turn support Sun Lakes softball!