

Sun Lakes 70s Win 5th World Title!
By Larry Wolfe and Bill Horne
January 2012

The Sun Lakes 70s Tournament Team, sponsored by Pinnacle Physical Therapy, recently won an unprecedented fifth World Championship in a major tournament held in Las Vegas. The tourney included teams from around the country and even included a team from Hawaii. “This tournament was the most competitive we have played in. Every game was a real battle,” said co-manager Henry Ellis. “On the last couple days our bats just came alive and we got hot,” he added.

In the championship game our Pinnacle-sponsored team beat Thousand Oaks, California by a 20-7 score. The team was led by Jim Mollsen who pitched three of the wins and also batted an unbelievable .875 for the tournament. Eight Pinnacle players hit over .700 for the tourney. Talk about hot hitters! “We’ve been successful over the past four years, but this may be our best team yet,” said Ellis. “We couldn’t have put together such a great team without the support of our new sponsor,” added co-manager Bruce Watkins. (Pinnacle Physical Therapy is located at 3930 Alma School Road, Suite 3, telephone: 480-899-9829.)

Both our 65s and 70s teams also won their divisions in the recent Peoria Invitational Tournament. The 65s had a 5-1 record while the 70s had a perfect 6-0 mark. Congratulations to both squads.

In other news, Gene “Doc” Metcalf has been named to the Senior Softball-USA Hall of Fame. He’s been a Director of that organization for over ten years and was a long-time participant in the Sun Lakes softball program. An induction ceremony will take place in the near future. He will also be featured in the next issue of the *Senior Softball News*. Congratulations, Doc!

Welcome our newest billboard advertising sponsor, The Amy Jones Group, Realtors. Amy and her colleagues specialize in Sun Lakes and Chandler properties. Find out more about The Amy Jones Group and all of our other sponsors on the Sponsors Page of our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com.

Our fall season concluded on December 15th. After a holiday break, the winter season will start on January 3rd. The Ladies team, the Sun Lakes Swingers, will also begin league play in January. Check our website, for up-to-date standings and statistics. We’ll also recap the fall season in the next issue of the *Splash*.

State Farm Wins Fall League Title
By Larry Wolfe
February 2012

Manager Evan Hansen's State Farm Insurance team won the Fall League Championship with a 7-5 record. Bill Corso's Mutual of Omaha team also sported a 7-5 record; however, State Farm was awarded the title by virtue of the tie-breaker. They beat the Mutuals twice in head-to-head competition.

The Fall League's Top Ten hitters, based upon a minimum of 40 plate appearances, were: Larry Kaufmann (.830); Tim Loeffler (.825); Nick Kusenko (.793); Mike Wolfe (.792); Dan Bradfield (.764); Ron Pennington (.760); Ken Brenden (.744); and Steve Garcia, Billy Kee and Don Scoggins, all at .729. Nice going, guys!

Our World Champion 70s Travel Team, sponsored by Pinnacle Physical Therapy, hosted a tournament at the Field of Dreams on January 7th and 8th. Our squad and the Phoenix Sidewinders were both 4-1 in the round-robin tournament; however, the Sidewinders won the tourney based upon the tie-breaker (total runs scored). Our top hitters were Gary Dee (.750), Tom Lorgan (.714) and Jim Mollsen (.700). Dan Gallichio led the team with 13 RBI. Our 75+ team made its debut in this tournament and posted a respectable 3-2 record. Thanks to all who helped out at the event, including our ladies team members.

Our 65s Travel Team also hosted a tournament later in January after the deadline for this month's *Splash*. Check back next month for details of that tourney.

The Winter League is now well underway. Each of our six league teams will play a twenty-game schedule. Check out our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) for up-to-date standings and stats.

Doc Metcalf Named to Senior Softball-USA National Hall of Fame
By Larry Wolfe
March 2012

Gene “Doc” Metcalf was recently inducted into the Senior Softball-USA National Hall of Fame at a ceremony in St. Petersburg, FL at that organization’s annual banquet. Doc was also honored at a local event at Papago Park and at the Field of Dreams during a recent tournament. SS-USA CEO Terry Hennessey and Executive Director Fran Dowell presented Doc with his Hall of Fame plaque and ring at the Papago Park event. Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association (SLSAA) President Denny Davidson presented Doc with the 2012 Award of Distinction honoring him for his many years of service to the SLSSA and for his election to the SS-USA Hall of Fame. Board member Mike Core acted as emcee for the occasion and introduced other long-time Sun Lakes softball contributors, including founder Jack Landers.

The SS-USA is headquartered in Sacramento, CA and is the prime governing body for senior softball. The organization sanctions tournaments, registers players, writes rulebooks and articles and promotes senior softball throughout the world. Today over 1.5 million seniors play in organized senior softball leagues.

Doc’s colorful life began in the mid-American plains in Parsons, KS. He played minor league baseball in the old K-O-M (Kansas-Missouri-Oklahoma) League alongside future major leaguers Mickey Mantle, Ralph Terry and the Boyer brothers. He later played semi-pro ball against teams such as the Indianapolis Clowns and Kansas City Monarchs of the old Negro Leagues and barnstorming teams like the House of David as well as in several local leagues.

He graduated from the Cleveland Chiropractic College in Kansas City (thus, the nickname of “Doc”) and had a successful 35+ year career as a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine before retiring to Sun Lakes. Doc and his wife, Vera, have lived the good life in Sun Lakes for over 22 years. Vera continues to be a successful local realtor while Doc has focused on softball.

As an early member of the Sun Lakes senior softball program, Doc has helped the Association grow into the successful organization that it is today. He also made a name for himself on the national tournament circuit with his

sharp humor, organizational abilities and more than a little skill with the bat and glove. He was a member of five World or National Championship teams and has been an ambassador for senior softball for many years, including a stint as a Director of the SS-USA. He also helped that organization put together a program that launched senior softball in Japan.

Congratulations, Dr. Gene Metcalf, on your Hall of Fame election and thanks for all you've done over the years for Sun Lakes Senior Softball!

Spring is in the Air: League Play Continues
By Larry Wolfe
March 2012

If you lived “up North” and you were a pure baseball fan, your thoughts would now be turning toward Spring Training, that wonderful annual ritual that marks the beginning of another season. You'd begin to picture fields of green rather than roads of brown slush; optimism would be in the air. Your team would be in first place, or at least tied for first, even if you were a Cubs fan! That young rookie would surely turn into a superstar! Ahhh, the sound of a bat hitting a ball rather than the sound of squeaky tennis shoes on a basketball court.... Yes, there's nothing quite like baseball in the spring, but if you lived in Sun Lakes, you would have been playing ball all throughout the fall and winter. No need to wait till the calendar says “Spring” for us!

So, as the major league teams begin their Spring Training schedule, our Tuesday-Thursday Competitive League is also beginning its 20-game Spring Session. We have three separate sessions (Fall, Winter and Spring) and a season-ending tournament and social function in late April. The State Farm Insurance-sponsored team (Frank Margiotta's Agency) managed by Evan Hansen won the Fall Session. The Winter Season ended after the deadline for this month's *Splash*; however, you can find the winning team, complete team standings and our leading batters on the Stats Page of our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com).

Thanks again to Lowell Peterson, Owner and President, and A-1 Golf Carts for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams for another three-year period. A-1 Golf Carts has been a long-time advertiser and also sponsors one of the teams in our Tuesday-Thursday Competitive League. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website to learn more about A-1 and all of our

other advertisers and sponsors. And remember to support the sponsors who support Sun Lakes Softball.

And finally, to quote the most-beloved two words in sports: “Play ball!”

Brenden Financial Wins Winter Softball Title
By Larry Wolfe
April 2012

The Brenden Financial Services team, managed by Ken Brenden, won the Winter Session title with a record of 14-6. Mutual of Omaha, managed by Bill Corso, finished a close second with a 13-7 record. The top ten hitters, based upon a minimum of 100 plate appearances, through the end of the Winter Session were: Mike Wolfe (.816), Larry Kaufmann (.789), Tim Loeffler (.765), Al Grefsheim (.750), Gary Hillabolt (.738), Harry Roehl (.729), Billy Kee (.721), Ken Brenden (.720), Jack Strauss (.711) and Nick Kusenko (.706).

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association’s annual banquet was held in the Oakwood Ballroom on March 5. Approximately 120 members and guests attended the event. Thanks to Event Coordinator Dr. Roger Spark, Emcee Jesse Washington and Photographer Mike Core for making the event a great success. After dinner, President Denny Davidson introduced members of the Board of Directors and thanked all the people who make our organization a success. Mike Core and Larry Wolfe were presented with the third annual Spirit of Sun Lakes Softball Award.

The 65+ travel team, sponsored by Robson.com won a recent Phoenix City-Wide Tournament. They won 4 of 5 games in capturing the title, averaging 20 runs per game! Our leading hitters were Rollin Marion (who reached base 20 out of 22 times for an OBP of .909) and Tim Loeffler (18 of 22 for a .818 OBP).

The Desert Dawgs, a new 60+ travel team, was formed in December and have played in four tournaments since their formation, winning one and finishing second and third in two others. The team was organized by Manager Ken Brenden and includes a core of Sun Lakes players plus some players from nearby communities.

Welcome Chapman Chevrolet of Tempe as our newest advertising sponsor. Also, thanks to our local Walgreens, located at Riggs & Alma School Roads, for renewing its advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. Walgreens has been a continuous sponsor since 1998. El Lobo & Associates, LLC, a local tax and accounting services company, also renewed their sponsorship. Check out the Sponsors Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to find links to all of our sponsors and to see how you can advertise your business or organization at the Field.

The Spring Season is now in full swing. Go to our website for current team standings and stats. A season-ending tournament will be held on April 17 at the Field of Dreams. This event also includes a cook-out featuring ballpark staples such as hot dogs and burgers and our annual awards ceremony. Everyone is welcome to attend. Free admission!

Sun Lakes Sluggers Complete Super Season
By Larry Wolfe
April 2012

Our ladies' senior softball team, the Sun Lakes Sluggers, completed their season with a sterling record of 21 wins and only five losses. Henry Ellis managed the team with assistance from Charlene Ellis. Also helping out as assistant coaches were Olena Buxton, Rick Ebel and Frank Tanner. Bill and Sue Powell served as scoreboard operator and scorekeeper, respectively, while Bob Ferrington was Chief Sideline Gopher. Also, thanks to the volunteer umpires and to all the fans for their support.

Alyson Stephens led the team in hitting with a .705 batting average along with seven doubles and four homeruns. Charlene Ellis hit .696 and tied Alyson for the team high in hits with 55 while Olena Buxton batted .667. Betty Whitlock hit .658 and led the team with eight triples and 41 RBI. Terry Finley completed the 600 Club with a .608 average. The power-hitting Sluggers lived up to their name as the team scored over 250 runs and bashed 75 extra base hits during the season.

Congratulations, ladies, on a super season!

Softball Season Ends...NOT!

By Larry Wolfe

May 2012

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball League completed its season on April 17 with a tournament, awards ceremony and social event. Next month's *Splash* will have all the details, including the tournament results and award winners. If you can't wait till next month, check out the news on our website: www.sunlakessoftball.com.

A big thank you goes out to this year's team sponsors: A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Services, Desert Cove Rehab Center, Frank Margiotta's Farmers Insurance Agency, Mutual of Omaha Bank and Ralph Vasquez' State Farm Insurance Agency. Also, thanks to this year's managers: Ken Brenden, Bill Corso, Evan Hansen, Larry Kaufmann, Rich Nadler and Harry Roehl. Finally, thanks to Dennis LePore, Umpires & Scorers Coordinator, and all the volunteer scorekeepers, scoreboard operators and umpires.

Even though our competitive league is over until November, we truly are the "Boys of Summer." The Field of Dreams is open for recreational play on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings throughout the summer. Come early for batting practice, and then participate in a pick-up game. It's a great way to stay in shape until the "real" season starts again. Check out the website for details or call Denny Davidson at 883-9716 for more information.

Thanks to Aluma-Line, Inc. of Mesa and Saba & Romanin Dental Associates of Sun Lakes for renewing their advertising banners at the field. Both companies are long-term advertisers and supporters of Sun Lakes softball. Aluma-Line provides awnings, window treatments and other products for commercial and residential customers. Drs. Saba & Romanin provide a full range of dental services. Learn more about them and all of our other advertisers by going to the Sponsors Page on our website.

Baseball joke of the month: Years ago, a newspaper reporter wanted to know where Yogi Berra's recent power surge came from. He said, "Last year you only hit 15 homeruns and this year you've already hit 20. What's the difference?"

"Five," replied Yogi.

Desert Cove Captures Spring Softball Title
By Larry Wolfe
June 2012

The Desert Cove Senior Softball Team, managed by Larry Kaufmann, won the Spring Session title with a sparkling won-lost record of 13-5. They edged out the second place Brenden Financial Services team which finished with a record of 11-7.

Desert Cove and Brenden Financial Services, managed by Ken Brenden, both compiled 33-19 overall records for the three sessions (fall, winter and spring). Desert Cove won a tie breaker to earn the number one seed in the season-ending tournament (see the separate article for the tournament highlights in this edition of the *Splash*).

At a recent Board meeting, the following directors and officers were named for the 2012-2013 season: President Denny Davidson, Vice President Roger Spark, Secretary Larry Wolfe, Treasurer Bob Deken and Members-at-Large Mike Core, Henry Ellis, Ed Sowney and Jesse Washington.

Even though league play is in a hiatus until early November, softball never takes a break at the Field of Dreams. Our summer program includes batting practice and pick-up games every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Call Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for further information.

The Annual Sun Lakes Fire Department vs. Sun Lakes Senior All-Stars event took place in early May. The Seniors bested the “Juniors” 24-9 and 13-10 to sweep a doubleheader. Thanks to the Fire Department for furnishing pizza and drinks following the games.

Thanks to our newest billboard advertisers, Caribbean Dreams Landscaping and BLD Restaurant. Caribbean Dreams is a local firm owned by Brad Clark. They offer a full range of landscaping services including maintenance and property management, water features, misting, irrigation and outdoor lighting systems and more. BLD is also a locally-owned company and a sister restaurant of Cork, which is also a billboard advertiser. Robert and Danielle Morris and Chef Brian Peterson are the owners of both restaurants. As the name implies, BLD serves breakfast, lunch and dinner in its South Chandler location. Also, thanks to The Charles Company & Associates, insurance specialists, with offices at 9666 E. Riggs Road, Suite 136, for renewing their sponsorship. The Charles Company has been a loyal supporter of our program since 2003. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website

(www.sunlakessoftball.com) to learn more about BLD, Caribbean Dreams, The Charles Company and all of our other sponsors and advertisers.

Desert Cove Wins Tourney Championship
By Larry Wolfe
June 2012

The 2011-2012 Senior Softball Tournament and awards ceremony were held on April 17 at the Field of Dreams. Over 200 friends, family members and players enjoyed a great day of softball and the ballpark cuisine of Chef Bobby Thompson.

The tournament was a five-game, single elimination tournament. Seedings for the six league teams were based upon the total won-lost records of each team over the fifty-two game schedule that comprised our three sessions (fall, winter and spring). In game one, the Mutual of Omaha team beat the A-1 Golf Carts squad by a 16-12 score. Jack Strauss, Dave Boone, Tim Loeffler and Al Grefsheim each garnered three hits for the winners.

In game two, State Farm Insurance edged Farmers Insurance by a 9-8 count. Mike Wolfe, Denny Davidson and Evan Hansen each had two hits for the winners while Gary Hatch paced the losing team with three hits.

Game three featured number one seed, Desert Cove Rehab Center. Desert Cove just squeaked by the State Farm team by 12-11 score. Steve Schaidner knocked in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh to seal the hard fought victory. Bill Cheney led the winners' attack with three hits and a walk. Tim Stock went four for four in the losing cause.

After game three, Master of Ceremonies Ed Sowney introduced the 2011-2012 Award Winners. The Top Ten Hitters in the Men's League were: Mike Wolfe (.838), Larry Kaufmann (.796), Chuck Myrick (.760), Ken Brenden (.742), Tim Loeffler (.741), Al Grefsheim (.734), Frank Tanner (.725), Jack Strauss (.723), Gary Hillabolt (.721) and Dan Bradfield (.718). Members of the Lady Sluggers 600+ Club were: Alyson Stephens (.705), Charlene Ellis (.696), Olena Buxton (.667), Betty Whitlock (.658), Nancy Ferrington (.658) and Terry Finley (.608). Gary Hillabolt was named Most Improved Player while Nick Kusenko won the Rookie-of-the-Year Award. Dennis LePore won the prestigious Sportsmanship Award.

Following the Awards Ceremony and after enjoying the sumptuous ballpark food, play resumed with number two seed Brenden Financial beating Mutual of Omaha 10-6 in game four. Ken Brenden, Dennis Bernaiche and Dom Colonna each had three hits for the winners while Big Al Grefsheim led the Mutuals' attack with three hits including a long homerun.

In the championship game Desert Cove bested Brenden Financial 11-6. Chuck Myrick and Hal Kime led the winners with three hits each while Ron Pennington and Ken Brenden did the same for the losing squad.

Congratulations to Manager Larry Kaufmann and his Desert Cove team, 2011-2012 Tournament champions, and all of this year's award winners! Also, a big thank you to everyone who made this event a success, including Social Director Dr. Roger Spark, Bobby Thompson and members of the Lady Sluggers who helped with the cookout.

And the Heat Goes On...and So Does Softball!

By Larry Wolfe

July 2012

Most of our Canadian and northern "fair weather players" are gone for the summer, but there's a cadre of 20-30 guys who continue to show up at the Field of Dreams in spite of our "more than mild" temperatures. The field is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning for batting practice and pick-up games. Call Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association President Denny Davidson at 883-9716 for additional information.

Thanks and kudos to Dignity Health, the 5th largest health care system in the nation, and their two local hospitals, Chandler Regional and Mercy Gilbert Medical Centers for purchasing a "double banner" at the Field of Dreams. Also, thanks to Netzel & Associates for renewing their advertising banner. Located at the UTAZ Professional Village at 10450 E. Riggs Road, Netzel & Associates is a full service financial advisory firm specializing in services for retirees and pre-retirees. Go to our Sponsors Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to learn more about them and all of our other advertisers and supporters. Be sure to click on the new link in the upper right hand corner of that page to see all of our sponsors' banners.

The Major League Baseball All Star Game will be held on July 10 this year in Kansas City. Last year, the game was held here in Phoenix at Chase Field. You may remember there was some controversy when Milwaukee's Prince Fielder did not select D-back Justin Upton to take part in the Home Run Derby. Instead he selected his wimpy teammate, Rickie Weeks. Upton's friend and teammate, Chris Young, wasn't happy with that, but he denied calling Prince Fielder an idiot. "I did NOT call Fielder an idiot," Chris said. "Somebody else did and I just agreed with him!"

Early Bird Softballers Beat the Heat
By Larry Wolfe
August 2012

Well, it's the dog days of summer, especially in Arizona. (As an aside, did you know that "dog days" has nothing to do with man's best friend? The term comes from the ancient belief that the star Sirius, also called the Dog Star, was somehow responsible for the hot weather of summer. You learned something today!) Many of us head north or somewhere cool to get away from the seemingly never-ending 110-degree days. Most of the Sun Lakes sports clubs are on a summer hiatus, but not the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association! We beat the heat, or at least the worst of it, by taking to the field at around 7 a.m. for batting practice and pick-up games. It's not too early to start getting in shape for the upcoming league play, so come on down to the Field of Dreams any Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday morning. Call our President, Denny Davidson, at 883-9716 for additional information.

Thanks to Desert Cove Nursing & Rehab Center, located at 1750 W. Frye Road in Chandler, for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. Desert Cove has been an advertiser since 2009. They also sponsor one of the teams in our competitive league. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com) to learn more about them and all of our other advertisers and supporters. Be sure to click on the new link in the upper right hand corner of that page to see all of our sponsors' advertising banners.

By now, you have a good idea of how your favorite major league baseball team will do this season. Many high hopes have been shattered, but there are a few pleasant surprises, too. At least if you're a Cubs fan, you're never

disappointed. You know going into the season that they'll never win the World Series, so you can plan on watching football in October!

If you're looking for this month's player profile article, you can stop looking now. I'm one of those that headed out of town to beat the heat. The profiles will resume next month. Happy Dog Days!

P.S. My wife, Pat, called this my Seinfeld article. It's pretty much about nothing, but interesting!

70s Capture Western Nationals Title & More
By Larry Wolfe
September 2012

Our 70s travel team, sponsored by Pinnacle Physical Therapy, recently won the Western Nationals Championship held in Aurora, Colorado. They swept the field by winning six straight games to earn the title. Since several of our players head north for the summer, our guys had to be reassembled in Colorado. Besides the full time Sun Lakers, team members flew in from Canada, Idaho, Illinois and New York. "The key to winning this tournament was our great hitting," said Coach Henry Ellis. "We had an unbelievable team batting average of .667 with nine guys hitting over .700." They needed that great hitting in the championship game when they came back from three runs down in their final at bat to win 24-23! Congratulations 70s on another great tournament win!

Our summer program is still in full swing and will continue through October. It's not too early to come out to the Field of Dreams and get in shape for the Fall Season which will begin November 1. The field is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning for batting practice and pick-up games. Call our President, Denny Davidson, at 883-9716 for additional information.

They say that even though you may have seen a thousand baseball games, there's always something new that you have never seen before. How about this scenario from a recent pick-up game: Bobby Reeves is on first with one out. Duane Kramer is the batter. Duane hits a looper into short right field that looks like a sure base hit. Bobby takes off for second. However,

everyone underestimated the skill of the right fielder, one Wayne “Red” Waterfield. He sped (or was it lumbered?) in a caught the short fly ball. He continued running (lumbering) and stepped on first for an unassisted double play...by a right fielder! We’ll hear this story (probably embellished by Red) for a long time to come!

Mike Core, Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association Board Member and Official Photographer, has created a photographic masterpiece. He made a collage featuring every member of the men’s and women’s leagues in a baseball card format. The 100+ photo collage is hanging at the clubhouse at the field. Come down and take a look. Mike also does photo slide shows for our annual banquets and takes most of the photos you see accompanying this column. Thanks and nice work, Mike!

New Season is Just Around the Corner
By Larry Wolfe
October 2012

November 1st is the date we’re all waiting for. Our Fall/Winter League Season begins on that date and runs through January 22nd, followed by a seeded tournament and social event on the 24th. Each of our six league teams will play a 24-game schedule. Sign-ups will begin later in October and will be followed by our player draft. Check our website for details (www.sunlakessoftball.com). Note that new players must be evaluated before participating in league play, so it’s important to participate in our recreational program in October before the player draft. The recreational program is being held on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings at Snedigar Park through October 15 due to over-seeding of the outfield grass at the Field of Dreams. We’ll then return to the Field of Dreams with Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday recreational play dates from October 16 through October 30.

Thanks to this year’s volunteer team managers: Ken Brenden, Gary Hillbolt, Larry Kaufmann, Steve Kay, Dennis Kennedy and Harry Roehl. Our league is highly dependent upon all of our volunteers, from managers to scoreboard operators to scorekeepers to umpires; we appreciate and need your help. If you’re not a member of our Association, but have experience in any of these areas and would like to volunteer, call Dennis LePore at 480-290-6237.

Robert “Bobby” Cantor, whose photo is shown above, has been a member of the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association for nearly 20 years. He’s “retired” from league play, but still participates in our recreational program. Bobby is one of three players aged 80+ who remain young at heart from their love of the game: Jimmy Kilmartin and Ron Brown are the other two. As old baseball great Satchel Paige once asked, “How old would ya be if ya didn’t know how old ya wuz?”

70s Softball Team Wins Triple Grand Slam

**-Larry Wolfe
November 2012**

Our 70s tournament team, sponsored by Pinnacle Physical Therapy, recently won the coveted Triple Grand Slam of Senior Softball at a tournament held in Las Vegas. The World Masters Tournament drew 456 teams in many divisions and age groups, making it the largest softball tournament to date.

Previously, in August, the team won the Western National Championship at a tourney held in Aurora, Colorado. That win was Step One in their quest for the Triple Grand Slam and it qualified them to play the Eastern National Champion Hamel Cavaliers of Virginia for the overall national crown. Our guys scored 25 runs to blow away the Cavaliers and won the National Championship, Step Two in their road to the summit of senior softball.

They then endured a hard fought seven game World Championship tournament full of challenges, not the least of which was 100+ degree temperatures throughout the four-day event. The tournament was super competitive with five of the seven games decided by three runs or less. The Pinnacles won both the semi-final and championship games by just one run. They beat a very solid team from Portland, Oregon, 20-19, coming from three runs down in the bottom of the 7th to capture the World Championship title and the Triple Grand Slam.

“Our men played their hearts out,” said Field Manager Henry Ellis. “There were so many clutch hits and great plays that I can’t single anyone out. It was truly a team effort and a dream come true for our entire team.” Ten guys hit over .600 for the tournament, an indication of the team effort involved.

“Actually there were eleven players who hit over .600, if you count Henry’s one for one effort,” recalled General Manager Bill Horne. “When Dave Boone was injured, we had no other pinch hitters, so Henry stepped in and lashed a base hit in his only plate appearance, adding to the team effort required.”

Like the New York Yankees of prior years, this team has an aura and mystique about them. They seem to expect to win....and they do. Congratulations to the 70s Pinnacle Physical Therapy team that has truly reached the *pinnacle* of senior softball!

Bob Deken Named to Silver League Softball Hall of Fame
By Larry Wolfe
November 2012

Bob Deken, our current Senior Softball Association Treasurer and a former league manager and player, was recently named to the Silver League Hall of Fame. He and three other players were honored at a dinner and awards ceremony with over 300 players and spouses in attendance. The Akron, Ohio area Silver League includes over 30 teams in five divisions. Besides playing in the league for fifteen years, Bob was an officer and member of the Board of Directors for several years. He then served as Executive Director of the league for over ten years. During his tenure, the league grew from only six teams to its current thirty teams. He was also instrumental in obtaining a \$50,000 grant from the State of Ohio, which was used for the construction of four additional softball fields for the expanding league.

Besides his executive duties, Bob was a team manager and also sponsored a tournament travel team for fourteen years. His AA team was good enough to win many local and regional tournaments and they even reached the final four in a World Championship tournament in the late 90s.

Bob is a past a member of our Board of Directors and has been our Treasurer for many years. He’s very active in the Sun Lakes community and has served on the IronOaks Board of Directors for several years. Congratulations, Mr. Deken!

In other news, November 1st is opening day for league play in the Sun Lakes Senior Softball League. We play two doubleheaders every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Field of Dreams. The Fall/Winter Session will

continue through January 22 and will be followed by a six-team tournament and social function on January 24. After a short break, the Spring Session will begin and run through April. You can keep up with the current team standings and player stats on our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com). We also have a recreational program on Monday and Saturday mornings. To find out how you may participate, call our Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716.

Thanks to this year's team sponsors: A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Services, Desert Cove Rehab Center, Farmer's Insurance (Frank Margiotta Agency), Mutual of Omaha Bank and State Farm Insurance (Ralph Vasquez Agency).

Also, thanks to our newest billboard advertising sponsor, Dr. Stuart C. Kozinn. Dr. Kozinn specializes in hip, knee and shoulder orthopedic surgery and has "repaired" several of our players. Learn more about his practice and all of our other sponsors and supporters by clicking on the Sponsors Page of our website.



PLAY BALL!! New Softball Season is Underway
By Larry Wolfe
December 2012

The new softball season got underway on November 1. This year's team sponsors and managers are: A-1 Golf Carts (Mgr. Gary Hillabolt); Brenden Financial Services (Mgr. Ken Brenden); Desert Cove Nursing & Rehab Center (Mgr. Larry Kaufmann); Frank Margiotta's Farmers Insurance Agency (Mgr. Steve Kay); Mutual of Omaha Bank (Mgr. Harry Roehl); and, Ralph Vasquez's State Farm Insurance Agency (Dennis Kennedy). You can check current standings and batting statistics on the Stats Page of our website (www.sunlakessoftball.com).

Our ladies' team, the Sun Lakes Sluggers, is now practicing for league play. Their season begins in January. We also have a men's recreational program on Mondays and Saturdays. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480-883-9716 for details.

Our 70s travel team, sponsored by Pinnacle Physical Therapy, continued their remarkable winning streak by sweeping six straight games at the recent Bullhead City Annual Tournament. Tom Grubb (.824) and Tom Lorgan (.778) were the top batters, but eights guys hit over .600 to power the team to victory after victory. Billy Kee led the team with 13 runs batted in while Howie Dielmann and Jim Molssen were the winning pitching tandem. Congratulations, again!

Thanks to our newest billboard advertising sponsors, Santé of Chandler and Sierra Family Dentistry. Santé provides a full range of rehabilitation services at its facility at 825 S. 94th Street in Chandler. Drs. Rauschel and Zaidi and their staff at Sierra Family Dentistry provide general, cosmetic and restorative dental services at their facility at 600 S. Dobson Road in Chandler. Learn more about them and all of our other sponsors and supporters by clicking on the Sponsors Page of our website.