

**March 2007**  
**CLASSI WINS “BATTLE OF THE CARTS”**  
**WINTER LEAGUE NOW IN FULL SWING**  
By Larry Wolfe

**The Classi Carts team, managed by Bill Corso, defeated A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Bill Gateley, by a score of 9-7 to win the fall post-season Senior Softball Tournament. Chuck Swanson and Duane Kramer led the victors with three hits each in the championship game in a spirited contest that also featured several outstanding defensive plays.**

**Duane Kramer, Classi Carts’ first baseman, led the fall league with an outstanding .764 batting average. Gary Dahlgren (.672) and Bill Kreisman (.667) of the regular season champion Pendergast Concrete team finished second and third in the batting title chase. Other .600 plus hitters (based upon a minimum of 40 at bats) were Bob Hutchins (.661) of Brenden Financial Planning; Bill Gateley (.659) and Tom Lorgan (.659) of A-1 Golf Carts; Norm Van Blargan (.633) of Classi Carts; and “Young Jim” Hall (.614) of Keyland Homes.**

**After a break for the holiday season, the teams began winter league play on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The winter league is now in full swing and will continue through March 20, when the winter league tournament takes place. The winter league includes five teams, sponsored by A-1 Golf Carts, Classi Carts, Keyland Homes, Pendergast Concrete and Wells Fargo Bank. Come on out to the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads and watch your favorite players and teams in action.**

**April 2007**  
**Pendergast Concrete Team Wins First Half Winter League Title**  
By Larry Wolfe

The Pendergast Concrete team, managed by Bill Kreisman, won the first half Sun Lakes Senior Softball Winter League championship with a record of 12 wins and only 4 losses. The A-1 Golf Carts team, managed by Bob Hutchins, placed second with a record of 10 wins and 6 losses. Other teams and their records were Classi Carts (9-7); Keyland Homes (5-11) and Wells Fargo Bank (4-12).

The second half winter season ended on March 15<sup>th</sup>, after the deadline for this publication. In addition, a season-ending play-off tournament was held on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Second half and tournament results, as well as individual award winners, will be published in the next edition of the *Splash*. Go into the final two weeks of the season, the batting leader was Duane Kramer at .669; Duane led the fall league in batting average as well. He was closely followed by Larry Kaufman (.663) and Jack Hofeditz (.648), but

things can change quickly with a hot hitting streak or, conversely, a prolonged slump. Check the next issue of the *Splash* to see if Duane Kramer held on to win the batting title, or if someone else passed him by.

Even though organized league play is now over until the fall season commences, softball play never ends at the Field of Dreams. Batting practice and informal pick-up games are held every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout the summer. Call League President Dennis Bernaiche at 883-8019 for further information, or just grab your glove and come on by to join in the fun.

Notice to local businesses: You can still advertise your business on a billboard on the outfield fence at the Field of Dreams for as little as \$450 for a three-year term. Call Larry Wolfe at 802-2748 for details. Proceeds are used primarily for field maintenance. Your support would be appreciated.

May 2007  
Wells Fargo Edges Classi Carts for Title  
By Larry Wolfe

The Wells Fargo Bank team, managed by Bob Deken, captured the winter league playoffs with an exciting 9-8 win over the Classi Carts team, managed by Evan Hanson. Bob Schulte and Tom Kennedy led the victors in hitting while Floyd Mullen and Bob Zawidski sparkled in the field.

Following the championship game, the 2006-2007 award winners were announced. Jack Hofeditz, star shortstop of the Pendergast Concrete team was named Most Valuable Player. The Rookie-of-the-Year award was presented to Ted Miles of Classi Carts. Roger Spark of Pendergast Concrete was named Most Improved Player, while his teammate, Dwayne Hinkle, won the Sportsmanship Award. In addition, six players were presented Certificates of Achievement for hitting over .600 (based upon a minimum of 100 at bats). Duane Kramer had the overall highest batting average, hitting a robust .654. He was followed closely by Jack Hofeditz at .648; Ken Brenden at .636; Billy Kreisman at .628; Bob Hutchins at .622; and, Floyd Mullen at .619. Congratulations to all of this year's award winners.

Voting for two open Board of Directors seats also took place during the Playoffs. Hal Kime and Roger Spark were elected to the Board, replacing Larry Domas and Dick Moran, whose terms expired. The Association wishes to extend its thanks to the two outgoing board members for their dedicated service.

The second half winter league regular season championship was also won by the Wells Fargo team with a record of 10 wins and 4 losses. The Key-Land Homes team, managed by Dennis Bernaiche, finished second.

Even though formal league play is over until the fall league begins, informal play will continue on Tuesday and Thursday mornings throughout the spring and summer.

Informal play includes batting practice and usually a “pick-up” game. If you’re interested in joining in the fun, call league President Dennis Bernaiche at 883-8019 for additional information, or just grab your glove and come by the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads at 8 a.m. on any Tuesday or Thursday.

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June 2007  
Softball Association Officers Elected  
By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association recently elected officers for the 2007-2008 season. The officers are as follows: President, Dennis Bernaiche; Vice President, Hal Kime; Secretary, Larry Wolfe; and, Treasurer, Bob Deken. Denny Davidson, Roger Spark and Norm Van Blargan will serve as Members-at-Large on the Association’s Board of Directors.

Even though the formal softball season is over and will not begin again until the fall, members continue to play at the Field of Dreams during the summer months. If you’re interested in keeping in “softball shape” during the dog days of summer, come by the field near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads on any Tuesday or Thursday. In order to “beat the heat,” batting practice begins at 7 a.m. and is followed by a pick up game. Grab your glove, bat and sun tan lotion and join the fun.

July 2007  
SOFTBALLERS ENJOY SWINGING SUMMER  
By Larry Wolfe

Hmmm.... I just checked the dictionary and there is no such word as “softballers,” so I guess I must’ve made that up. Anyhow, the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association players (aka “softballers!”) continue to play throughout the summer months. There is no formal league during the summer, because many of our members “bail out” and head to cooler climates during our rather warm summer. However, there are usually 20 to 30 players at the Field of Dreams every Tuesday and Thursday. Batting practice starts bright and early at 7 a.m. and is followed by a pick up game.

Anyone interested in playing and getting in shape for the fall season is welcome to come by and join the group.

Any business owners interested in an advertising banner on the outfield wall at the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads should call or email Larry Wolfe (802-2748 or [larryewolfe@msn.com](mailto:larryewolfe@msn.com)) for details. You can advertise your business for a three year period for as little as \$495. As of this writing there are only seven spaces left (out of forty plus), so reserve yours today.

August 2007  
“THE BOYS OF SUMMER”  
By Larry Wolfe

Most true baseball fans have read the book “The Boys of Summer,” written by Roger Kahn and first published in the early ‘70s. It still appears on nearly all lists as one of the greatest baseball books of all time. The book chronicled the ups and downs of the Brooklyn Dodgers team of the early 1950s. That team featured stars such as Roy Campanella, Gil Hodges, Don Newcombe, Johnny Podres, Pee Wee Reese, Jackie Robinson and the “Duke of Flatbush,” Edwin “Duke” Snider. It also had a young, but wild, left-handed pitcher named Sandy Koufax, who, in later seasons, also turned out OK.

The book recounts and relives the dreams (and nightmares) of the many devoted fans that followed that team. It’s a sentimental and bittersweet journey. Those Dodgers were a very good team, but always lost the World Series to those Damn Yankees! The rallying cry of the Dodger faithful was always “Wait ‘til Next Year!” That is, until 1955 when a young Johnny Podres pitched “Dem Bums” to a thrilling seventh-game triumph over the Yankees and the World Championship.

Well, Sun Lakes has its own “Boys of Summer.” They’re the really hardy and devoted (some say “crazy”) senior softball players who meet every Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Field of Dreams for batting practice and a pick up game. The sessions start at 7 a.m. and are usually completed by 9:30 or so while the temperatures are still in the cool and crisp upper 90’s. If you’d like to join this hardy bunch, just come on by the field near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads.

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September 2007  
SENIOR SOFTBALL AND “BALL FOUR”  
By Larry Wolfe

In last month’s edition of the *Splash*, I referred to the baseball book “The Boys of Summer” by Roger Kahn. That got me to thinking about other classic baseball books and “Ball Four” came to mind. “Ball Four” was written by former major league pitcher Jim Bouton and is basically the first candid and uncensored (and funny) look at life in the major leagues. It was based upon his diary of the 1969 season. When Bouton’s brother read the manuscript he said, “Great book, Jim, but what’s Mom going to think?”

So what does that have to do with Sun Lakes Senior Softball? Well, there’s not much to write about during the summer off-season, so I had to come up with something and that something is “Ball Four.” You see during the summer and early fall months a group of guys get together twice a week for batting practice and a pick up game. In these games, there is no “ball four.” Actually, there is, but we don’t walk to first after four balls (we just wait for a good pitch), because the whole idea is to practice hitting and fielding...not walking.

So if you want to get in shape for the fall season, come on down to the Field of Dreams at the corner of Riggs and Price Roads on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7 a.m. and join in the batting, fielding and running.....but no walking!

Call me at 480 802-2748 if you have any questions about the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association.

October 2007  
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS  
By Larry Wolfe

**The long hot summer is nearly over and league play will commence within the next few weeks. It is important that everyone planning to play this fall register for the new season in October so that teams can be selected for the upcoming season. Come by the Field of Dreams on any Tuesday or Thursday morning to register or call Bob Deken at 802-7716 or Larry Wolfe at 802-2748 for more information. The annual registration fee, payable by personal check only, is \$90 for league play or \$50 for Monday's informal play.**

**The Age Group Teams will also be forming soon. Managers for the upcoming season are:**

**55's Bill Beltz (883-1904) and Ken Brendan (802-7433)**

**60's Bill Corso (803-7869)**

**65's Denny Davidson (883-9716)**

**70's Larry Delaney (802-7282)**

**The Age Group Teams play in several tournaments against all-star teams from other cities and states. Most of the tournaments are held on weekends, so this is an opportunity for players who are still working in the real world to participate on high skill level teams. Contact the managers directly for more information.**

**There is one very proud grandfather in the Sun Lakes Softball Association. Travis Metcalf, grandson of Gene "Doc" Metcalf and his wife, Vera, was called up to the major leagues by the Texas Rangers this summer. He recently had a "day to remember" when he drove in eight runs in a doubleheader against the Baltimore Orioles. Travis hit a grand slam in the Rangers' infamous 30-3 victory in the first game of that twinbill. Those thirty runs were the most scored in a major league game since 1897 (that's not a misprint!) and Travis was a part of that history-making game. Travis was a star at Kansas University, where he set Jayhawk records for the most home runs in a single season and college career. He turned pro in 2004 and steadily worked his way up the minor league chain before making his major league debut this summer. Congratulations, Travis, Doc and Vera!**

**A sincere "Thank You" to the late Bob Novak: Bob acted as scoreboard operator and scorekeeper for the regular season league games for the past several years. Bob passed away in August at age 83. He was a native of Chicago and an avid baseball fan who was thrilled when his Chicago White Sox won the World Series in 2005. He loved to be at the old ballpark, whether it be a major league stadium or the Field of Dreams in Sun Lakes. He'll be missed.**

November 2007  
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS  
By Larry Wolfe

**The Sun Lakes Senior Softball League's fall season gets underway the first week of November. Players were recently selected for the teams, whose**

sponsors will include A-1 Golf Carts, Classi Carts, Keyland Homes, Pendergast Concrete and Wells Fargo Bank. League games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads. Come on out and cheer on the “Boys of Fall.”

In addition to the league games, the field is open on Monday mornings for informal games and batting practice. Call Red Waterfield, the coordinator for Monday play, at 895-6100 for additional information. If you’ve just recently moved to the area or just migrated back to God’s country and arrived too late to be selected for a team, come out on Mondays to keep your skills sharp and let Red know if you’re interested in “moving up” to league play.

In the “Senior Softball Player Profile” article included in the September edition of the *Splash*, that month’s featured player, Jerry Berg, complained that his softball swing messed up his golf swing. Well, I guess it hasn’t messed it up too badly. On September 28<sup>th</sup> Jerry scored his first ever hole-in-one on the Par 3 second hole at the Phase 1 Sun Lakes Country Club course. Nice swing, Jer! Now if you could just get your softball swing in a groove....

December 2007 General  
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS  
By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association opened its fall season on November 1 and will be well into league play at the publication date. This season’s team sponsors and team managers are: A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Evan Hanson; Classi-Carts, managed by Jim Kilmartin; Keyland Homes, managed by Bill Beltz; Pendergast Concrete, managed by Tom Lorgan; and Wells Fargo Bank, managed by Bud Murray. The fall season wraps up on December 11 with playoffs for the championship. After a break for the holidays, the winter season will get underway in early January. In addition to league play, the Field of Dreams is open on Monday mornings for batting practice and informal play. If you’re interested in league play, call League President Dennis Bernaiche (883-8019) for more information. Call Red Waterfield (895-6100) for more information regarding Monday play.

A separate article in this issue of the *Splash* is devoted to our World Champion 60’s Travel Team; however, the 65’s Travel Team, sponsored by Ed Robson and Robson Ranch and managed by Denny Davidson also had a very successful tournament. They finished the World Championship Tournament in 5<sup>th</sup> place out of a 23-team field. The team won 8 out of 10 games against opponents from Chicago, Las Vegas, Northern California, Texas, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Team batting leaders

included Floyd Mullen (.733); John Hurst (.706); Jack Hofeditz (.703); and Most Valuable Player Howie Dielman (.667).

Attention Business Owners: You can advertise your business 365 days a year with a billboard at the Field of Dreams for less than 50 cents per day. Only five of forty-one spots remain. Call Larry Wolfe at 802-2748 for details.

## **December 2007 60's Champs SUN LAKES 60's WIN WORLD SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

**The Sun Lakes 60's National Travel Team, sponsored by Mr. Ed Robson and Robson Ranch, won the World Championship Senior Softball tournament, which was held in Phoenix from October 19-21. The tournament featured teams from Hawaii to Maine and nearly everywhere in between.**

**The Robson Ranch team lost one game in the seeding round by a score of 20-19, but then won six straight games to take the title. The team averaged an amazing 23 runs per game with a team batting average of .675, outscoring their opponents by over 50 runs in the championship round.**

**Team leaders included Tim Loeffler with a batting average of .808; Spence Preston who had 18 extra base hits to go along with his .778 average; Dave Graham-Armstrong at .724; Tournament Most Valuable Player Terry Schmitgal, a .767 hitter; Harry Roehl, with a .720 batting average; and, Roy Copsey, who batted .667 with six doubles and two home runs.**

**The team, which plans to play in several more tournaments throughout the year, is managed by Bill Corso. Evan Hanson is the Assistant Manager. All the team members received medals and championship rings to commemorate their triumph.**

### **PHOTO:**

**1<sup>st</sup> row, kneeling (L-R): Gary Dahlgren, Tim Loeffler, Ralph Vasquez**

**2<sup>nd</sup> row (L-R): Manny Hurtado, Spence Preston, Tom Lorgan, Ron Pennington, Denny Davidson, Jim Sobek, Mgr. Bill Corso**

**3<sup>rd</sup> row (L-R): Dave Graham-Armstrong, Asst. Mgr. Evan Hanson, Roy Copsey, Al Grefsheim, Harry Roehl, Chuck Myrick, MVP Terry Schmitgal**