

2008 Sun Lakes Splash Articles General News

January 2008

SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS: FIELD OF STREAMS

By Larry Wolfe

Valley of the Sun (?) During mid-December the Field of Dreams softball field became the Field of Streams and puddles. The final games of the regular fall season and the end-of-season tournament were cancelled due to unplayable conditions caused by our heavy rains. But there is always next year.... The winter season games start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, so be sure to come out to the Field of Dreams and cheer on the "Boys of Winter!" The field will be open on Thursday, January 3rd for practice, so all players that are back in town can work off those holiday pounds before the new season starts!

The A-1 Golf Carts team, managed by Evan Hanson, won the fall regular season title with a record of 12-4. The Keyland Homes team, managed by Bill Beltz, finished second with a 9-7 record. Batting leaders for each team, based upon a minimum of 40 at bats, were: A-1's Gary Dahlgren (.712); Classi Carts' Dave Graham-Armstrong (.706); Keyland's Dennis Bernaiche (.661); Pendergast Concrete's Bill Gately (.780); and Wells Fargo Bank's Reggie Reese (.556).

February 2008

SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS

By Larry Wolfe

The winter season's opening games were played the first week of January. The games are played on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads. Everyone is welcome to come out and cheer on the "Boys of Winter." The season runs through the end of March.

This season's team sponsors and managers are as follows: A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Gary Dahlgren; Classi-Carts, managed by Ron Pennington; Keyland Homes, managed by Henry Ellis; Pendergast Concrete, managed by Bob Hutchins; and Wells Fargo Bank, managed by Dick Schroeder.

The condolences of the entire softball association are extended to the family and friends of the late Mike Riley, a former senior softball player and to the family and friends of Mona Colbert, the late wife of current player, Dennis Colbert.

March 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

As a dozen major league baseball teams begin spring training across the Valley and in Tucson as a part of the popular Cactus League, Sun Lakes' own "Boys of Spring" will be completing their season. Play will continue through March and will conclude with a season-ending tournament at the Field of Dreams near the intersection of Riggs and Price Roads. Come out any Tuesday or Thursday morning to watch the spirited competition.

Unlike the major leaguers who will depart for their regular season home stadiums, the Sun Lakers, at least those who "tough out" our Arizona dry heat, will continue informal play and practices beginning in April and continuing throughout the summer months. Come down to the field on any Tuesday or Thursday morning to join in the fun or call Larry Wolfe at 480 802-2748 for additional information.

April 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

The regular winter Sun Lakes Senior Softball League season ended in late March with a tournament and cook-out for fans and players. The tournament winners and various award winners will be included in next month's *Splash*.

Informal pick-up games will be played every Tuesday and Thursday morning during the summer months. If you're interested in playing, come on out to the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads and sweat off some of those winter pounds! Call Larry Wolfe at 480 802-2748 for additional information.

Meanwhile, all of the Age Group Teams have been playing very well and will continue to enter tournaments throughout the year. In fact, in the recent Gold Glove Qualifiers held at Papago Park in Phoenix, our teams, which are sponsored by Robson Ranch, won the 60+, 65+ and 70+ divisions!

This is the initial year of play for our "youngsters," the Sun Lakes 55+ Arizona Bobcats team. In their first four tournaments, the Bobcats, who are managed by Bill Beltz, won 14 of 21 games, including records of 5-1 in each of their last two tourneys. That's quite an impressive accomplish for a first year team. According to Bill, their objective is to be successful enough to qualify for the Senior Softball World Championships which are held in October. Good luck, Bobcats!

May 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

A large crowd enjoyed some well-played games, along with juicy burgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings, at the season-ending Senior Softball Tournament held on March 27. The Pendergast Concrete team, managed by Bob Hutchins, eked out an 8-7 victory over Classi Carts, managed by Ron Pennington, to win the tournament championship. Pendergast also beat the top-seeded Keyland Homes team, managed by Henry Ellis, to reach the title game.

Bob Hutchins acted as Master of Ceremonies for the awards program, which preceded the championship game. Larry Kaufman was named the league's Most Valuable Player, while Reggie Reese won the Most Improved Player award. Ron Brown won the Sportsmanship Award and Gary Hatch was Rookie-of-the-Year. Six players were honored for finishing the season with a batting average of .600 or above. Those recognized were: Bill Gately (.752); Tom Lorgan (.667); Bill Corso (.649); Larry Kaufman (.631); Jack Hofeditz (.629); and Ron Brown (.625). Members of the Ladies' Team that finished at or above .600 were also recognized. Those players were previously listed in last month's *Splash*.

The regular season championship was won by Keyland Homes with a sparkling record of 21-9. Classi Carts finished a close second at 19-11, while Pendergast Concrete was third with a 15-15 record. A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Gary Dahlgren finished at 11-17, while Wells Fargo Bank, managed by Dick Schroeder, went 8-22.

A new Board of Directors and Officers for the 2008-2009 season were also recently elected. The Officers are: Denny Davidson, President; Hal Kime, Vice President; Bob Deken, Treasurer; and Larry Wolfe, Secretary. Board members at large are: Henry Ellis, Tom Lorgan, Roger Spark and Jesse Washington.

Even though the regular season is now over, the Field of Dreams is still open every Tuesday and Thursday morning for batting practice and pick-up games. If you're interested in participating in summer play, just come by the field or call Denny Davidson at 883-9716 for additional information.

June 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

It's the summer hiatus for league play in the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association; however, informal summer play continues on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Field of Dreams. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480 883-9716 for further information. .

The Age Group Travel Teams also continue to play throughout the summer. In fact, the 60+ team, sponsored by Robson Ranch, recently won the southwest championships that were held in Tucson. Our team dominated the field, which included teams from California, Colorado and New Mexico, in addition to Arizona. The team, managed by Bill Corso, went undefeated in the tournament and averaged an astounding 25 runs per game while batting a collective .707. This win qualified the team for an invitation to the Tournament of Champions which will be held next January in Florida. The team will also compete in the Western Nationals in Salt Lake City this coming July. Congratulations, Bill and Company!

Several Sun Lakes Softball Pioneers attended the recent season-ending tournament. (See the accompanying photo showing some of those attendees.) It's retired players such as those pictured and those mentioned in this month's Doc Metcalf Profile article, as well as current veterans such as Owen Bae, Jerry Berg, Ron Brown, Bob Cantor, James Hall, Jim Kilmartin, Dick Moran and Bill Serdar, who set the foundation for the Association we have today. Thanks, guys.

The sale of advertising banners at the Field of Dreams continues. As of this writing, only four spaces remain. Recent new advertisers include Blind Devotion, Grand Slam Landscaping and Sun Lakes Disposal. If you'd like to advertise your business and help support Sun Lakes Softball, please call Larry Wolfe at 480 802-2748 for additional information.

July 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

It's summer time at the old ball yard and even though the fall season won't start for quite a while, there are many players who come by the Field of Dreams nearly every Tuesday and Thursday morning for batting practice and a practice game. So if you want to get (or stay?) in shape during the hot summer months, come on by at around 7:30 a.m. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480 883-9716 for more information.

The 17th Annual Tom Tobin Senior Softball Tournament was recently held in Prescott. Our 70+ Travel Team, managed by Larry Delaney, won their age group division. In addition, the 60+ Team made it all the way to the championship game before losing a real "pitchers' dual" by the score of 25-24! And our 55+ Team, managed by Bill Beltz, made it to the semi-finals in that tournament. The 55's play next in the World Championships at Pine Top later in July.

And then there were two.... Only two spots remain for your advertising banner on the outfield fence at the Field of Dreams. Kokopelli Winery & Bistro in historic downtown Chandler is the newest advertiser to join in the support of Sun Lakes Softball. In addition, our local Basha's signed up for an additional three years of advertising. Join these and other supporters by calling Larry Wolfe at 480 802-2748 to reserve your spot now.

September 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

The 60+ travel team, sponsored by Robson Ranch, won the Western National Championship Tournament, which was held in Salt Lake City in late July. Winning this prestigious tourney qualified the team for the U.S. Nationals and the World Championship Tournament, which will be held in Phoenix in October. Our guys averaged 24 runs per game in the championship bracket to demolish the competition. Tim Loeffler led the team in hitting with an astounding .888 batting average. Other top hitters included Larry Kaufman (.875); Dave Graham-Armstrong (.765); Terry Schmitgal (.750); Roy Copsey (.706); and Mike Wolfe (.700). Mike also accomplished the rare feat of hitting for the cycle (single, double, triple and home run) in the championship contest. Congratulations, guys, and good luck in the upcoming U.S. and World Championships!

If you want some summer exercise and also want to “beat the heat,” come on out to the Field of Dreams near the corner of Riggs and Price Roads at 7 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday morning for batting practice and a pick up game. There are usually 30 or so players at the park. Call Association President Denny Davidson at 480 883-9716 for additional information.

Thanks to our newest banner advertisers, Desert Golf Cars of Mesa and Outpatient Physical Therapy Center (OPT) of Sun Lakes. If you'd like to support Sun Lakes softball and advertise your business with a banner on our outfield fence, call Larry Wolfe at 480 802-2748 for more information.

October 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

We're finally near the end of our long hot summer and it's about time for the fall season to begin. The deadline for registering to play in the Tuesday-Thursday league is Tuesday, October 28. The season will begin the first week of November. Come by the Field of Dreams on Tuesday or Thursday mornings or call Association President Denny Davidson at 480 883-9716 for more details.

The 60+ team, sponsored by Robson Ranch, earned the right to participate in the National Championships in Las Vegas and the World Championships in Phoenix later in October. Congratulations to Manager Bill Corso and his Western Regional champs.

Thanks to our newest banner advertiser, Monte B. Wells, DDS, who recently opened a family and cosmetic dentistry office in the Ocotillo Professional Building in Chandler. If you'd like to support Sun Lakes softball and advertise your business with a banner on our outfield fence, call Larry Wolfe at 480 802-2748 for more information.

November 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

The new season is here! The informal Monday league starts play on November 3rd and the formal Tuesday-Thursday league begins play on November 4th. You can join the Monday league at any time for pick up games and batting practice. Just come by the Field of Dreams any Monday morning and ask to see Red Waterfield, Monday League coordinator. To get on the waiting list for the formal league, call Denny Davidson at 480 883-9716. This year's team sponsors are A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Services, Grande Valley Golf Carts (formerly Classi Carts), State Farm Insurance (Ralph Vasquez's agency) and Wells Fargo Bank. Come by any time to watch the competitive fun.

The Age Group Teams, sponsored by Robson Ranch, participated in several tournaments in October. Results were not available at this month's deadline but will be published in next month's *Splash*.

Our sympathy and condolences go out to Harry Martin, a long time Sun Lakes softball player and manager, whose wife, Donna, passed away in October.

December 2008
SENIOR SOFTBALL NEWS
By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes 60's Travel Team, sponsored by Robson Ranch and managed by Bill Corso, recently won the Triple Grand Slam of Senior Softball. They won the Western Nationals, the Las Vegas World Masters and the U. S. Nationals championship tournaments. Most senior softball players are fortunate to win even one championship ring, but this team has won an incredible eight major tournaments in the past two seasons. Congratulations to Bill and all the team members! Our other Age Group Travel Teams also participated in the recent U. S. Nationals and turned in competitive performances, but came up short of winning their championships.

The Tuesday-Thursday League is now in full swing. Team sponsors include A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Dennis LePore; Brenden Financial Services, managed by Duane Kramer; Grande Valley Golf Carts, managed by Bob Hutchins; State Farm Insurance (Ralph Vasquez' Agency), managed by John Hurst; Sun Lakes Realty (Vera Metcalf, Realtor), managed by Jim Dunn; and Wells Fargo Bank, managed by Bob Yaryan. The fall season concludes on December 18. After a brief hiatus for the holidays, league play will commence again in early January. Call Denny Davidson, Association President, at 480-883-9716 if you're interested in playing in the winter season.