



Spirit winner Dave Martin waits for high-flying ball (upper right), while catcher Sam Giordano and Umpire Joe Byrne look on. (Photo by Larry Wolfe)

May 2023

Softball Short Hops By Larry Wolfe

At the press deadline, our Spring Season was still underway. We'll recap the standings and league leaders in the June edition of the *Splash*. We'll also cover the results of the season-ending tournaments in both the Lakes and Sun Divisions. If you can't stand the suspense, go to the Stats and Standings Pages of our website, www.sunlakessoftball.com for up-to-date results. Note that we also have a Summer Program for those willing to brave the high summer temps. Updates are on the website.

Well over 100 members, spouses and significant others attended our annual social event on Monday, March 27th. This event allows our members to get together in a non-softball social setting and get to know each other better. It also allows us to see what everyone looks like without a ball cap! Some are nearly unrecognizable! We also hand out annual awards at this program. This year's winners in the Lakes Division were:

Rookie-of-the-Year: Garnet Hammer
Most Improved Player: Dan Malachuk
Sportsman of the Year: Larry Maggard

Winners in the Sun Division were:

Rookie-of-the-Year: Brian Denham
Most Improved Player: Mike Gloyd
Sportsman of the Year: Brad Wendt

The top three hitters for our Lady Sluggers team were also honored: Frankie DeMouth (.783), Cheryl Jolin (.750) and Terry Finley (.716).

The prestigious Spirit of Sun Lakes Softball Award was presented to Gary Hillabolt and Dave Martin. This annual award was established in 2010 to recognize those members who go “above and beyond” in supporting our program. Award winners are selected based upon their outstanding dedication, initiative, and service to our organization.

President Doug Warwick also recognized other members who volunteer as scorekeepers, scoreboard operators, team managers, umpires and field maintenance personnel. It’s all these volunteers who make our program a success. Last, but not least, thanks to Pat Wolfe, Event coordinator.

We welcome a new advertising sponsor. First Response Roofing has a new banner in left field. Thanks to owner Evelyn Zeidler, who’s also the wife of player Bob Zeidler. We thank Dan Schneider, owner of Aluma-Line, Inc. for renewing their banner. Mr. Schneider has supported our program since 2003. Finally, thanks to Pat Wolfe for the new Field of Dreams “Is this Heaven?” banner in centerfield. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website for links to all our advertising and team sponsors.

Reminder to all former SLSSA members. Join our Alumni Association and stay in the loop with your former teammates. There is a link to the application on the Home Page of our website. Forms are also available in the scorer’s booth at the field.

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of Joan Kilmartin. Joan was the wife of the late Jimmy Kilmartin, who was one of the “Founding Fathers” of Sun Lakes softball. RIP, Joan.