



Dennis LePore is ready to swing away at a recent Fall League game. Catcher Rick Thompson and Umpire Ron Carmichael look on. (Courtesy of The Foto Factory)

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### Crazy Endings to Fall Softball Sessions By Larry Wolfe

You've all heard the old saying, "It ain't over till the fat lady sings." However, that's probably politically incorrect now, so we'll go with Yogi Berra's quote: "It ain't over till it's over!" That certainly describes what happened in both the Lakes and Sun Divisions at the close of our Fall Sessions.

First, in the Lakes Division, the A-1 Golf Carts-sponsored team needed to win its final two games to tie the Young Realty Team for first place. And Manager Joe Commisto's team did just that; but it's how they did it that is crazy. After winning the first game of a doubleheader versus Skyview Digital Media by the fairly comfortable score of 19-13, they staged a comeback for the ages in winning the second game 26-25. Going into their final at bats, the Golfers trailed Skyview 25-14. Ernie Flores led off the inning with a base hit but was quickly erased by a force out. One out. Then the craziness began. Eleven straight batters reached base, scoring ten runs in the process. Paul Eskridge hit a sac fly to tie the score. Now two

outs. Gene Granquist drew a base on balls before Charlie Alley singled to bring in Manny Verduco with the winning run. The win resulted in A-1 tying Manager Gary Hillabolt's Young Realty squad for first place, both with 11-7 records.

In the Sun Division, Manager Kim Whitney's Leckner Realty team started the season with a woeful 1-7 record, seemingly destined for last place. But, no, the Realtors then went on an eight-game winning streak, enabling them to tie Manager Randy Neumann's Spooner PT club with identical 9-7 records. The Realtors may have won the pennant outright, but the Therapists beat the Redeemed Team twice on the final day of the season to secure the tie. Crazy, indeed!

The top ten hitters in the Lakes Division were Vern Rodgers (.753), Ernie Flores (.744), Bill McCoy (.731), Tim Loeffler (.706), Manny Verduco (.695), Doug Warwick (.693), Brian Brockman (.691), Gene Granquist (.685), Gary Hillabolt and Frank Rouse (both .667). Brian Brockman led the division in homers with nine while Tim Loeffler and Vern Rodgers each hit six taters.

In the Sun Division, Dan Melosi led the league with a robust .867 average, followed by Marty Hobby (.825), Larry Kaufmann (.803), Tom Bersano (.795), Bobby Farmer (.778), Dave Platt (.766), Bob Wicks (.759), Greg Lemmon (.757), Dave Lingen (.744) and Mike Lebet (.729). Bob Wicks was the home run leader with 17, followed closely by Larry Kaufmann and Thom Stephens (15 each).

A big thank you goes out to The Redeemed Team (Suzy Steinmann & Michelle Hudak, Realtors) for renewing their advertising banner at the Field of Dreams. They also sponsor one of our teams in the Lakes Division. Go to the Sponsors Page on our website, [www.sunlakessoftball.com](http://www.sunlakessoftball.com), to read more about them and all our other sponsors and advertisers.