

2006 SUN LAKES SPLASH ARTICLES

May 2006

SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS WRAP UP SEASON, BUT KEEP ON PLAYIN'

By Larry Wolfe

The Men's Senior Softball League wrapped up its winter season with a Championship Tournament at the Field of Dreams on April 13. KeyLand Homes, managed by Dennis Bernaiche, captured the championship trophy. The regular season championship was won by the Terminix team, managed by Gene "Doc" Metcalf.

Besides KeyLand Homes and Terminix, other teams in the winter league were A-1 Golf Carts, managed by Bob Deken; Classic Carts, managed by Evan Hanson and Dick Moran; and Pendergast Concrete, managed by Billy Kreisman.

The April 13 festivities also included a cookout for all players, spouses and fans and the annual awards presentations. Gary Dahlgren was named the league's Most Valuable Player. Co-Rookies of the Year were David Green and Steve Hartman, while Fred Fisher was named Most Improved Player and Larry Wolfe received the Sportsmanship Award. Bob Novak was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his diligent service in running the scoreboard for nearly every game all season long. Larry Domas and Norm VanBlargan received Certificates of Appreciation for their work in maintaining the Field of Dreams and for turning it into the "Field of Green." Also, Dick Balcon, a long time Board member and player, who recently relocated to North Carolina, was cited for his many years of meritorious service to the Association.

The batting title was won by Jack Hofeditz, who hit a robust .727, edging out slugger Larry Domas (.710). Other members of the 600 Club (batting averages of .600 and above with a minimum of 100 at bats) included Ken Brenden, Ron Brown, Jim Dunn, Al Franklin, "Young Jim" Hall, John Hurst, Bob Hutchins, Hal Kime, Billy Ligon, Tom Lorgan, Floyd "Pinky" Mullen, Ron Pennington, Chuck Swanson, Norm VanBlargan, Tommy Vitolo and Bob Yaryan.

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association also recently elected board members and officers for the upcoming season. The officers are Dennis Bernaiche, President; Dick Moran, Vice President; Bob Deken, Treasurer; and Larry Wolfe, Secretary. At Large Board Members are Denny Davidson, Larry Domas and Norm VanBlargan.

Even though official league play is over until the fall league begins, many players continue to play throughout the summer months. The Field of Dreams is open for batting practice and pick-up games every Tuesday and Thursday morning beginning at 7:30 a.m. If you'd like to join in the summer fun, just grab your glove and show up at the Field of Dreams north of Riggs on Price Road. Call Larry Wolfe at 802-2748 with any questions.

July 2006
SUN LAKES SOFTBALLERS BEAT THE HEAT
By Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association players continue to hone their skills in preparation for the upcoming fall season. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, the Field of Dreams at Riggs Road and Dobson Road is populated by 20 to 30 (or more) softball players. To beat the summer heat, batting practice begins at 7 a.m., followed immediately by a pick up game. We're usually done by 9:30 when it's only 99 or 100 degrees!

If you'd like to participate, just come down to the Field with your bat, glove and sun tan lotion. Call Larry Wolfe at 480 802-2748 if you have questions.

September 2006
SENIOR SOFTBALL UPDATE:
FIELD OF DREAMS CLOSED FOR RE-SEEDING
By Larry Wolfe

The Field of Dreams will be closed for the remainder of the month of October to allow for re-seeding of the field. Informal men's senior softball play will continue at Foley Field in Chandler until the first week in November. Foley Field is located near the intersection of Frye Road and Arizona Avenue (just east of Arizona Avenue across the railroad tracks).

League play is scheduled to begin in early November. If you're interested in playing in the fall league, come by Foley Field at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays or call Dennis Bernaiche (883-8019) or Larry Wolfe (802-2748) for additional information. Be sure to sign up soon as teams will be selected in the very near future.

Attention Business Owners: There are still a few available spots for your business to advertise its services on the outfield fence at the Field of Dreams. Call Bob Deken (802-7716) for additional information.

October 2006
NEW SOFTBALL SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER
-by Larry Wolfe

The Sun Lakes Senior Softball Association's Fall Season will get underway the first week of November. The competitive league operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while a

recreational league operates on Mondays (and possibly Wednesdays depending upon the level of interest).

This year's team sponsors for the competitive league include A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Services, Classic Carts, KeyLand Homes, and Pendergast Concrete.

Informal get-togethers, including batting practice and pick-up games, are held every Tuesday and Thursday morning until the start of the regular season. Anyone interested in participating in either league should come by the Field of Dreams, near the corner of Riggs Road and Price Road, on any Tuesday or Thursday morning starting at 7 a.m. to sign up. Association dues for a full year of play are only \$35 for the recreational league and \$75 for the competitive league. Makes golf seem awfully expensive, doesn't it!?

The Field of Dreams has several openings for advertisers' signage on the outfield fence. For only \$450, payable in installments, your business can be advertised for a three year period on one of these large signs. Call Bob Deken at 480 802-7716 for additional information.

Hope to see you out at the ball park.

November 2006
SENIOR SOFTBALL SEASON KICKS OFF
By Larry Wolfe

Some people may wonder why the Sun Lakes Senior Softball Season is kicking off right in the middle of football season. Well, I'll tell you why. It's because softball is so much better than football that we just can't wait till football season is over to start our softball season.

Here's why I think softball is a much better game than football:

- There is no half time in softball. We just keep playing till the game is over. Half time is just a waste of time.
- There are no bands or cheerleaders. (Well, maybe we could make an exception for a few cheerleaders!)
- Softball doesn't have guys in striped shirts that look like overfed zebras throwing yellow flags on the field. In softball, when a play is over, it's over. We don't have to look around to see if anybody threw a yellow flag at us.
- A softball is round. All balls *must* be round. A football, therefore, really isn't a ball at all.
- There is no clock in softball. We play seven innings per game without ever looking at a clock. When it's over, it's over! Then we go to Wendy's.
- Football teams never play doubleheaders. We *always* play doubleheaders.
- Softball players play both offense and defense. Those pansies playing football really play less than half a game each.
- We don't rely on the littlest guy on the team with a name no one can pronounce to come in and kick a field goal to decide the final score.
- What's a kick-off? Just start the game!

- You can't bring a lawn chair to a football game.
- And finally, old guys like us can still play softball. Can you imagine us in shoulder pads and helmets!?

So now that you know why we're kicking off in November, here's some real news. This year's team sponsors include A-1 Golf Carts, Brenden Financial Planning, Classi Carts, Keyland Homes, Pendergast Concrete and Wells Fargo Bank. The team managers are Bill Gateley, Bob Hutchins, Bill Corso, Gene "Doc" Metcalf and Bill Kreisman. Over 70 players are participating in the fall league. League play began on November 7th and will continue through December 12th. At the conclusion of the regular season, a tournament will be held on December 14th. After a break for the holiday season, the winter season will start in January.

If you'd like to join in the fun, call Association President Dennis Bernaiche at 480 883-8019 to get on the waiting list for the fall season or to sign up for the winter season.

Also, everyone is welcome to come out to the Field of Dreams at the corner of Riggs Road and Price Road to watch Senior Softballers in action and enjoy our beautiful Arizona weather. It sure beats sitting in front of the boob tube and wondering if that little guy with the funny name is going to beat your favorite team by kicking that oblong thing through the goal post in the last second and ruin your day!

P. S. The REAL reason we're starting the season now is 'cause it's too darn hot in the summer!

December 2006

PENDERGAST CONCRETE CLINCHES SOFTBALL PENNANT

By Larry Wolfe

The Pendergast Concrete team, managed by "Billy the Kid" Kreisman, captured the Senior Softball League's fall championship in convincing fashion by sweeping a doubleheader from Brendon Financial Planning on the last day of the regular season. Pendergast finished the season with a record of 13-3, just edging out Classi Carts, managed by "Wild Bill" Corso. Corso's team fell just short of the championship, finishing the season with a record of 12-4. Other sponsors for the fall league were A-1 Golf Carts, Keyland Homes and Wells Fargo Bank.

Going into the final week of the season, Duane Kramer of Classi Carts led the league in hitting with a robust batting average of .750 (36 for 48). Other top hitters were Bob Hutchins (.673), Billy Kreisman (.667), Gary Dahlgren (.660) and "Young Jim" Hall (.643).

A post-season tournament was held just after the deadline for this publication. Results of that tournament and the final league leaders will be published in the next edition of the *Splash*.

After a break for the holiday season, the winter league will commence on January 9th. In the interim, the Field of Dreams will be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for batting practice and informal games for those wishing to stay in shape

for the new season. The deadline for signing up for the winter season is January 2nd. If you're interested in participating, come by the field on Tuesdays or Thursdays or call League President Dennis Bernaiche (883-8019) for additional information.