

APRIL 2016

The season is underway and off to a good start. Only one cancellation for rain - let's hope the sunny streak continues! Remember to keep an eye on your e-mails for notifications about weather cancellations; every effort is made to get the notices out as soon as possible when the games have to be cancelled. Don't forget the number 1 rule - if you cannot be at a game, let your manager know ahead of time; if a manager doesn't hear from you, she assumes you will be there.

The games scheduled for May 12 and 14 were listed as "No Play" dates on the master schedule because at least 2 of our tournament teams had originally planned on going to a tournament on those dates. The teams have since cancelled their attendance so the league will now have enough players for games to be played. The Board discussed what to do with those dates and agreed that they would be rainout dates. **MAY 14 will now be a makeup for APRIL 23.** Since we have not had a Wednesday rainout, watch your e-mails for what will happen on May 12.

A very special celebration of life will be held after the games on June 4 at Southside Fields to remember Lani Etherton. One of her last requests was that her ashes be spread over the field where she played with the Golden Girls. Her son Gary has said over and over that her family were deeply touched by all the expressions of love sent to Lani and the family in the last few weeks of her life and he wants to personally relay their thanks to everyone. Please join all the Golden Girls in remembering Lani on June 4.

Kathryn Lou (Lani) Etherton

21 April 1938- 31 March 2016

Lani lost her battle with lung cancer last month - just 2 months after she played her last softball game. Though obviously ill, she came from Illinois to play with our 75+ team in Plant City, Florida, because she had been told we were short of players. And, as Jane Rogers said, "She not only showed up, she made a difference."

Though she had played softball earlier - with 4-H and school teams as she was growing up and with church, work, and Arlington County teams as a young adult - her career as a senior player began and ended as a Golden Girl. She was a member of our very first tournament team in 1989; played on various league, tournament, and Olympic teams throughout the years; and ended by playing third base (or, occasionally outfield) on our current 75+ team where she was known for her hitting and her dedication to the team.

She shared other talents with Golden Girls as well, having demonstrated her Hawaiian dancing skills at a Golden Girls annual breakfast; and, as a talented seamstress, she altered ill-fitting uniforms and made custom outfits for special occasions.

We will miss her loyalty to Golden Girls, her playing, her hitting, her smiles, and her friendship.

GGalendar

Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 or after game: GG Board Meeting at Louise Archer School 324 Nutley St NW Vienna.

Saturday, June 4 after Saturday league games: Celebration of Life for Lani Etherton

Can't get enough softball?

Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS) is looking for players --- women 40+ & men 50+. Play double headers on Tuesday and Thursday mornings on fields in Fairfax County. Several Golden Girls play in this league and would like more company! Go to www.nvss.org for more details.

Reminder....

When you send out a message using ggsoftball@emaildodo.com, please sign your name to the note if it is not obvious who you are from your e-mail address. Also remember that when you do a Reply or a Reply All, it goes to ALL the Golden Girls...there is no way to reply to a message sent via ggsoftball and have it go to just one person. If you want to send a message just one Golden Girl, look up her e-mail address in the directory and send it to her with your own mail service. Also just a reminder, ggsoftball is to be used for official Golden Girls new only - it should not contain virus warnings, jokes, personal messages/questions, etc,

Odds & Ends

From Beth Hersey: Thanks to all my Golden Girl friends for all the cards, calls and thoughtful words after my surgery. It really means a lot and I'm healing more each day and I just can't wait till I can be on the field!

From Kathy Collett: I had a new addition to my family, grand-daughter Tegan Anne Holober was born on 3/25/16.

From Katy Page: Volunteers are needed for "Stop Hunger Now" to pack food for the hungry in third world countries. It will be held in the afternoon of June 18 at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church located at 1301 Trapp Rd in Vienna 22182. If you would like to help, contact Katy at glovemama@aol.com

Tournament News

The 50s went to an ISSA tournament in late March in Myrtle Beach and the 65s, 70s, and 75s went to an SPA tournament in early April.

The 50s in Myrtle Beach

By Trish Holmes

The Golden Girls 50's traveled down to Myrtle Beach in late March to warm up their bats for the spring season. They were not sure what to expect with the weather as rain was called for all day Saturday. But a beautiful Saturday showed up, perfect for playing ball. The 50's played their 2 pool play games on Saturday morning. Their bats were still asleep in the first game with Cindy Godfrey, Alethea Bageant, Dee Krause and Sandy Murphy showing they were the early birds with 3 hits each. In the 2nd game, after a 15 minute coffee break the GG 50's battled Sunny Beaches but again came up short despite getting 3 hits each from Leigh Adair, Alethea Bageant, Gina Byron, Glenda Coleman, Trish Holmes and Chris Voss.

Later Saturday afternoon the GG 50's started their elimination games. Working off a healthy, energy-filled lunch they were the ones on top at the end of the game defeating Sunny Beaches with Gina Byron and Trish Holmes helping out with a homerun each and Cindy Godfrey and Alethea Bageant with 5 hits each. After a one game break the 50's

were back on the field against the Sassy Seniors. But despite a homerun by Dee Krause and a triple by Trish Holmes this game was not for them as the Sassy Seniors squeezed past remaining undefeated.

On a grey, cloudy and colder Sunday morning the Golden Girls were up bright and early and took to the field again to face Sunny Beaches for a chance to play in the championship game. Leigh Adair set the tone for the GG 50's with 2 back-to-back plays at 1st base to shut down Sunny Beaches in the first inning. After a one hour rain delay in the bottom of the third inning the 50's bats came back with a vengeance as they outscored their opponent. Gina Byron stopped a 7th inning rally with 2 unassisted plays at third base for the final 2 outs of the game. Glenda Coleman and Dee Krause lead at the plate for the Golden Girls with 5 hits apiece. The tournament was called after that game thanks to Mother Nature which placed the Golden Girl 50's in 2nd place behind the Sassy Seniors.

The Golden Girls 50's would also like to thank Barbara Bitgood for helping in this tournament.

The 65s at Pensacola

By Peg Moyer

The group headed to Pensacola, FL with a last minute change in plans. Fay DeJoy, pitcher extraordinaire, had to ditch with a gall bladder attack. While in the emergency room her son was brought in with a heart attack. When it rains it pours. Thank goodness both are on the rebound.

Thursday's 2 opening pool games did not go well for us. Losing to Grey Power 8 to 5 and having 2 bad inning against the Fun Bunch 18-6. Grey Power also won against the Smokey Mountain Stars. Grey Power with 2 wins and no losses was 1st seed. Fun Bunch also won 2 with no losses had a lower run differential and was 2nd seed with Golden Gals 65s as 3rd seed with 1 win and 1 loss. We tied Smokey Mountain Stars with 0 wins and 2 losses and we had a higher run differential and we were seeded 4th and the Stars seeded 5th.

Our 3rd game of the day was scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m. and was delayed until 6:15 p.m. for the games still going on in the older brackets. We played the Stars and won 16 to 5 with 2 innings scoring 5 runs in each, a great way to start elimination play. Our 4th game of the day was scheduled for 6:30 p.m., but we were already running behind so we did not get to start until 8:00 p.m. We played 1st seed Grey Power and won 18 to 5, we again had a 5 run inning. We really felt sorry for Grey Power because of the delayed games, they had to sit waiting to play us from about 2:00 and finally getting to play at 8:00 for their 3rd game.

Friday's schedule was better for us as we seem not to be a great morning team at times. We played the Golden Gals 65s who had won against the Fun Bunch on Thursday. Game time was 2:00 p.m. We won the close game 14 to 12. We only had 1 inning where we did not score. The losers bracket continued and the Stars lost their remaining games and ended in 5th place. Grey Power lost their remaining games and came in 4th.

Saturday's games had Fun Bunch pitted against the Golden Gals 65s in a revenge match at 8:00 a.m. with Fun Bunch winning. We played Fun Bunch in the Championship game and were not able to get the bats going (not a morning team remember) so we had to play the If game and were able to hold them off with a 7 to 6 win. We held them 4 innings without a score.

MVP was T Ruffin who was a defensive machine. All Tournament Players were Baz Baziluik, Diane Belge, Peg Moyer and Dory Wagner.

Our next tournament is in June, a Friday, Saturday and Sunday event in a suburb of St. Louis, MO called Fenton, MO.

The 70s in Pensacola

By Marilyn Mallery

First the good aspects of the tournament: the fields were in great shape, we had excellent umpires, the weather was perfect, and the concession stand was outstanding.

Now for the not so good aspects. SPA had devised a very strange and confusing schedule that really threw all the teams for a loop. We were guaranteed 5 games; we started with a 2 game pool play followed by a double elimination bracket - think about that vs a 5 game guarantee. It was somehow set up to punish you for winning - you had to keep playing until you basically collapsed. It was the most unusual schedule we have ever faced.

The first day we were pitted against the 2 strongest teams in the whole 70s community - the Golden Gals and Canada. Needless to say we did not fare so well. However we did finish with plenty of time to visit Flounders, one of our favorite restaurants where we dined on great seafood.

Thursday was a very strange and exhausting day. We started against the second seated Chargers at 8 a.m. and thanks to the 5 runs they had to give us for differential, we won by 1 run. Waited around for awhile and then played

Canada who took us down even with the 5 run differential. We waited around some more and then faced the Blue Chicks who we beat in a hard fought contest and knocked them out of the tournament. Waited some more until sunset and then took on the Classics under the lights. Both teams were totally whipped by this time of the day but we managed to out last them to knock them out of the tournament. We finished around 8:30 p.m. after spending over 12 hours at the field.

Friday we had to face the Chargers again and this time, they beat us to knock us out of the tournament. As it was structured the Major teams rested on Thursday (played 1 game) but had to play back to back on Friday while Thursday was a killer day for the AAA (that's us) teams. It was very unfair to all the teams. In the final standings, we came in 4th out of 7 but in reality, since there were 7 teams (3 Majors, 4 AAAs) and no split, we won the AAA bracket. That's our story and we're sticking to it.

The 75s in Pensacola

By Margaret Keys

The 75's came to Pensacola with only 12 players -- this included 2 players, June Sonosky and Connie Jamison, who were double rostered with the 70's. (For 75's this means no one sits out as we play with 2 short fielders -- one of the few perks of being old -- and it means no one can get hurt and there are very few runners available.)

Our first pool play opponent was the Golden Gals of Florida. They have a very good team and, though we lost, we felt good at holding them to a respectable 8-10 score. TriStar from Ohio was our second opponent. They scored first, but we came back to defeat them 6-4.

The next day we found that we had been seeded second (probably thanks to our good showing against the Golden Gals) and had a bye for the first game. Then we met TriStar again and out scored them 9-2.

Our first opponent of the 3rd day was Golden Gals again. In the early innings the score was very close, but they had a late game surge and beat us 9-3. That put us into the losers' bracket where we met the Florida Freedom Spirit. This time we really were out-played as they scored 16 runs while we only managed 6. We finished the tournament in third place.

Our All-Tournament players were Barbara Herriman, Nancy Williams, and Bunny Soares. Our thanks go to the 70's who really supported us with players, score keepers, base coaches, and cheering fans.



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.



The professor teaching an American History asked a blonde in the class what she knew about the Roe vs. Wade decision.

She pondered this weighty question and finally answered, "I think that is the decision that George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware."



"You seem like a nice gentleman, but I'm not sure I could ever get serious about a man who has a laxative jingle for his ring tone."