

GOLDEN GIRLS NEWS

JULY 2012

As the spring/summer season draws to a close, we should all take a moment to look back on the rich history of the Golden Girls. Founded in 1979 with 51 members, the Golden Girls has grown to a nationally known and highly respected organization with over 150 members today. The town of Vienna has been generous to us over the years by letting us use our fields free of charge which means we've been able to keep the league membership dues amazingly low. We've been blessed with so many hard working volunteers to serve as officers, coaches, managers, mentors, and helpers including many husbands and friends.

Our tournament teams have travelled all over the United States and Canada playing in countless tournaments and special events such as the National Senior Games (aka "Senior Olympics") and the Huntsman World Senior Games. It's impossible to count how many trophies and medals that have been won over these 23 years. Golden Girls is the only senior women's softball organization that provides both league and tournament team venues and has been in continual operation for such a long period of time.

So whenever you put on your Golden Girls league shirt or tournament shirt, think about all your fellow members past and present who have made it possible for you to be a Golden Girl.

LEAGUE ROUNDUP

By Barbara Jacobik

With the season winding up this coming week, the Red Devilettes and the Limelights are in a close race for first. If this were a weekday only league, Azalea would be in the lead. There have been six forfeits, including a double forfeit. So, everybody, let's make this last week count - and no rain dances!

Golden Girls League Standings (Spring 2012) as of 7/21/12

Team	Games	Wins	Losses	Ties	Win %	GB	Forfeits	Rain/Heat
Red Devilettes	26	17.5	8.5	1	0.673	0.0	3	10
Limelights	25	16.5	8.5	1	0.660	0.5	1	11
Azalea Mania	23	10	13	2	0.435	6.0	0	13
Purple Passion	24	4	20	2	0.167	12.5	2	12

CHO TIME

Thanks to all that supported CHO with your hygiene items and monetary donations. They are very much appreciated.
Bettie

THINKING AHEAD

Lynn Smith has again graciously agreed to host the Holiday Party at her home on **Sunday, December 9** from 1-4. More details will be coming but be sure to set that date aside for a great time.

ALL-STAR GAME

Team managers will provide each member on their team a list of eligible players for our annual All Star game selection. Each team will select 7 All Star players and one alternate. Team members should let their managers know ahead if they will be in town and available to play one game at Southside on Sat. August 25, so that members do not vote for someone who is unable to play. We need to select our All Star players by 28 July, the last day of our Spring/Summer season. All Star players will be announced in our next newsletter.

NEEDING HUGS

Barry Boston, husband of Tina Hayes Boston passed away on July 1 after a long illness. Tina was at the Columbus tournament and passed along her sincere thanks for all the support and comfort she has received from the Golden Girls. If you wish to send Tina a note, her address is 5430 Forester Dr.#2B High Point, NC 27265

TOURNAMENT NEWS

The 70s by Midge Holmes

Manager Beth and her spouse, "Da Coach" George Hersey, took our team of 16 players to Columbus where we tried our level best. A notable positive outcome was one big win against the Tennessee team. This definitely raised our spirits. But unfortunately a cloud of doom descended upon our shoulders, as in the end we came in fourth (last) out of four teams. And to make things worse, Janet got turf toe and Nancy suffered toe jam. But things improved when Shirley got a triple and several players got great hits, including 2 home runs. We all had fun and cheered each other on. We also enjoyed the freebies at the Drury Inn where we partied with our younger Golden Girls teams.

The following weekend, with only 11 players, we competed in the Penn Hills tourney. The first day of scheduled play it rained on our parade. Bad weather provided a whole day of time to become better acquainted with our teammates in the Holiday Express lobby or swimming pool. Because rain meant canceling the first day of tournament play, we had to play 4 games the second day, one of which started after 10 PM! Pretty amazing for our age group, eh? We won our age bracket by scoring many runs against Ohio competitors. How sweet it was! We came home with a first prize of collapsible orange water bottles that you may see some of us sporting on the field in league play. The tourney sponsors treated us to pizza, desserts and ice cream. Many thanks from the team go to the manager/coach combo, Beth and George.

The 65s by Marilyn Mallery

After a long break after Pensacola, the 65s went to Columbus, Ohio to compete against the Tri-Stars, Blue Chicks, and Fillies. Thursday didn't go in our favor but Friday morning we came out invigorated (perhaps the Drury cocktails the evening before?) and we were victorious against our good friends on the Blue Chicks team. Double elimination was next and we fell into the loser's bracket after a good battle against the Tri-Stars. We next lost a heart breaker in the seventh inning against the Blue Chicks so had to head home.

The next weekend we headed to Pittsburgh ready for action. Mother Nature had different ideas and rained on our parade the first day. After a two hour delay the next day we started our round robin matches at 11 a.m. We just couldn't put hits together or solidify the defense for the three round robin matches so went win-less into the double elimination which started around 7 p.m. We put up a great fight against the Tri-Stars but finally just couldn't finish them off. Around 11 p.m. we started our fifth game in a very long day against a 60s Pittsburgh team. We started off strong and held the lead until late in the game and finished 16-19 around 12:10 a.m.... it was a very long day! This tournament was also used as our Olympic qualifier so now we are now qualified to play in the Senior Games next summer in Cleveland.

We head to Aurora, Colorado the first weekend in August. Maybe our luck will change when we cross the Mississippi.

The 60s by Peg Moyer

The Golden Girls 60s went undefeated to win their second championship this season. (First was SPA Spring Nationals in Pensacola in April). There were eight teams in the 60s bracket for this tournament and we emerged as the only undefeated team. Suffice it to say we all played awesome, every last player! There were many great defensive plays as well as spectacular hitting throughout the weekend. In fact, our MVP, Diane Belge had two grand slam home runs. In pool play we defeated the Smoky Mountain Stars 24-9, Ohio Silver Buckeye Spirit 12-7, and the Fun Bunch 16-7 (in a drenching rain which included a 30 minute delay). In bracket play we beat the Buckeye Spirit team again 13-2 and then faced Jolico in an exciting game. Jolico came back from down 16-8 to give us a scare but we prevailed 16-14.

Next came the battle of the undefeated teams – we finally got to face the Ohio Cardinals. This was another nail biter. The score was tied at 11-all when we came to bat in the bottom of the 7th. We were determined to stay in the winner's bracket. Peg stepped up to the plate and smacked a double, next Vivian singled to move the runner to third. With no outs Nancy Harvey came up and drove in the winning run. Our hitters just kept coming through when we needed them! We faced the Fun Bunch in the Championship game after they battled their way back up through the loser's bracket. Diane Belge had a leadoff home run and added another grand slam in the fifth inning. When the dust cleared we came out on top, 17-14, but we had to hold off another comeback to do it (we were ahead 17-8 at the end of 5 innings).

The All-Tournament Team included Batch, Katy, Marcia, and Vivian in addition to MVP Diane Belge. Diane hit .720, had 4 home runs and 15 runs batted in. Katy and Trip each had two home runs, and Stevie, Nancy, Diane Gardner and Peg each had one home run. Batch had two triples and three doubles (if her legs were still youthful these would all have been home runs also!). We outscored our opponents 110-64 and wowed 'em with our stellar play. I can't say enough about everyone's excellent performances. We had a great time!

GOLDEN GIRLS ROCK

by Midge Holmes

How many decades, but who is counting?

Say we, as the years keep mounting.

We're pushing upwards, yes it's true

Oh gosh, oh my, what should we do?

Yes some have bionic hips

Replaced arteries, withered lips

Yellowed teeth, receding gums

Flattened tushes, tuck-less tums

Liver spots and deeper wrinkles

Sleepless nights from frequent tinkles

Scaling skin and thinning hair

Needing stents, a higher chair

Taking meds, and snoring lots

Up at night, and seeing dots

Though aches and stiffness can prevail

We surrender, not, to being frail

We may be old in many parts

With lapses, burps, hiccups and farts

But there's a solution in the mix

Cause playing softball is the fix

The game will keep us strong and youngish

Supportive teammates all among us

Where we can laugh and have some fun

As we hit, throw and catch and sometimes run.