

RRSA Member,

> On Wednesday, March 24th, nineteen of our 70+ senior softball players made their way down to College Station for their first tournament of 2022. And, as expected, it was a great success. No, we didn't bring home the hardware like last year (the team finished 4th this time around), but we had a blast just the same. The ride itself is always uplifting and edifying. Whether it's Kelly Petre's trivial knowledge of western cowboys and the names of their horses. Or finding out that Bob Wheeler (and wife Linda) know cruising (and are actually certified agents). Next time you want to take a cruise, check with Bob & Linda as to the where and when, and how to go. Logistics was a breeze, thanks to George Wendt. George, serving as our Team Coordinator, had made all the arrangements for us - team registration, hotel and restaurant reservations, etc. All we had to do was show up, eat, sleep, and play ... eat, sleep, and play. So that's what we did. Upon arriving in College Station, we were off to Willie's Restaurant for nourishment and storytelling.

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> Thursday was designated for pool games. Jim Reese, with his younger brother, Mark, looking on, put together an MVP performance the entire day, going 4 for 5, including a double and triple. Mick Calverly and Carl Caruso shared the pitching load for the day ... and the entire tournament ... and held our opponents to an average of only two extra-base hits per game. Iron-Man Ken (Cline), after having received a cortisone shot in his knee on Monday, turned in a strong performance while fielding the shortstop and bucket positions. Rookie Ken Ford had his big bat on display as he provided a couple of long, majestic moon shots. But ... there was only one Home Run hit by our RR home warriors, and that was provided by the fleet-footed Bob Laderach. A little bit of power, a whole lot of speed. Dinner time. Off to Outback. It's amazing how hard this team plays when it's game time, yet knows how to relax and enjoy when the game is over.

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> Bracket play started early Friday morning ... under the lights. Coach Gary Smith laid out our game plan for the day and the team was ready. Gary is the perfect coach for our team. He's patient, yet demanding. In a very respectful manner, he's able to make use of everyone's talent for the betterment of the team. We love our coach. Game 1 had the good guys leading throughout the game. Johnny Blecher, Mr. Franchise, has been ailing a bit lately. With only one arm and one leg available, he had strategically decided to sit out day 1. Johnny was just the spark the Robson team needed, as he proceeded to bat .833 for the day, and contributed three extra-base hits. And Terry Scholze drove in half the team's runs for the first game, including a booming triple to deep left field. But in the end, the bad guys squeezed past us for Friday's game one victory. Game two was win or go home. Big-time contributors stepped up to the plate. Randy Brewer accumulated at least 2 hits in every game, and was the team leader in RBI's. Ford Roberson was one of only three that managed one or more hits in every game, and he served as a designated runner ... endlessly. John Thompson's patented "line-drive into left field swing" was on full display, netting John the team's 3rd highest batting average for the week. Jerry Bennett had his best tournament, providing trustworthy defense and timely hits, ending the week as one of the team's top 5 hitters. Optimism never waned. Every team needs an Arnie Randall - the guy that is always there to lift you up when something goes uh-oh. A coach's dream player that plays multiple positions ... with enthusiasm. But at the end of game 2, your Robson Ranch Texans were gathering their belongings and heading for home. Not a bad thing. Especially if you are Clyde Ziegler. Clyde had made every play at 3rd base, error-free, just like he does virtually every time he is on the field. Yet on his way home, his thoughts were on another game - where his grandson was pitching for Grapevine's Christian Faith high school team. And wife Sandi was keeping him updated as Jack recorded out after out ... after out ... after out ... until .... yes, ... until he had pitched a PERFECT GAME!! Get his autograph quick, guys, while we can still afford it.

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> With tournament #1 under our belt, we take a few days to mend up, then start getting ready for our next tournament play in late April, in Grapevine. Thanks again to George, for doing all the legwork and preparation; for our beloved Coach Gary; for our injured players - Kelly Petre, who anchored

down the 1st base coaching position, and Dale Hill who kept the books. And most importantly, those lovely wives who let us run off for a few days ... and act like kids again ... playing a kids game.

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> Cheers.