

Opening Day Doubleheader for the Senior League

Mother Nature may have delayed by a week the much-anticipated Opening Day of our Senior League, but she did nothing to diminish the fun, the laughter, and the excitement that we always find in this incredibly special Wednesday morning softball league at the Field of Dreams.

Forget the games for a moment. How about an opening day edition of “It only happens in the Senior League”. In no particular order:

- Bright green pants, with dark blue softball jersey.
- The Scott Wilson Hop when he throws to first.
- A ground ball hit to the pitcher who bobbles it. As the ball is rolling toward 1st base, the pitcher runs after it and kicks it to the first baseman. Almost got an out.
- The 9th, 10th, and 11th batter in the lineup for Proscapes all wore jersey #11. Henry Moore chose #11 as that was his number as a high school QB; Weldon Wallace chose #11 as that was his basketball jersey # in high school; and Wayne Lussier chose #11 when the RRSA asked him what # he wanted he said, “I’m never #1 in anything, how about two #1’s”.
- A double down the left field line nullified because the batter was out of the box.
- A 71-year-old player, visually impaired due to very recent eye surgery, hits a three-run home run.
- A 70-year-old player stretching a hit into a double as his hat flies off his head.
- A batter, safe at first on a fielder’s choice, decides to sit down on the bench. One pitch later, resumes his place at 1st base. No harm; no foul.
- A Senior League manager, trying to get a defensive edge on his opponent, place twelve position players in the field. The opposing team discovered it, but after two batters had already batted.
- One of the fastest runners in all RRSA is on third base; next play he is thrown out at home on a 6-3-2 putout.
- There is a new rule in the Senior League this year – a batter can have a designated runner right there at home plate ready to run for the batter when the ball is hit. Three separate times today, when such a designated runner was in position and the batter hit the ball, the batter beat the runner to first base. It yielded two runners on first base.

Is not this great! Everyone should come to these games at 10:00 every Wednesday. Nothing but fun, laughter, and good times. And one more. We saw Wayne Lussier leg out a triple in the first game. We all remember the last time we watched Wayne leg out a triple. We and Wayne are certainly thankful we got to watch him do that again.

Onto the games.

There were two, remarkably close games of softball as well. In the first game, Proscapes Landscaping edged out Corpal Coral (CC), 10-8. And in the second game, Corpal Coral edged out MS2, 10-9.

Proscapes scored five in the 3rd and five in the 4th accounting for all their scoring, with the big hit being a bases loaded, inside the park home run by RRSA President, Mick Calverley. Bill Smiley, Mick, Wayne, Henry, and Carl Caruso each had perfect days at the plate. Ageless Bob Kuhfuss and Paul Vargo shared pitching duties. On the defensive side for Proscapes on a very windy day, Henry, and Carl both made very nice catches on balls that were blowing away from them.

Corpal Coral scored all their eight runs in their first three at bats. They scored four in the first as RRSA Treasurer Myron McKinney got things started with a double to right. Four hits later, Charles Wobbeking knocked in the fourth run on a fielder's choice. They scored one run in the second on hits by two of their three ladies, Killer Neagli and sub, Lisa McGlaston. After scoring three in the third inning on big hits from George Wendt and Jerry Bennett, and none in the fourth, CC came to bat in the last inning, needing two runs to tie, three to win. Pitcher Paul Vargo got them to go down 1-2-3, the last out being that infamous double down the left field line. Final score: 10-8, Proscapes Landscaping.

In the night cap, there was loads of laughter and a close finish. CC scored all their ten runs in just two innings as Sharon Deputy pitched a great game for MS2 in very windy conditions. In the first inning they scored a max five runs as 7 of their 8 batters reached base safely. The big hit came from Mike Conley, a 3-run, inside the park home run driving in three runs. In the third, all five batters in the top of the order scored runs on four base hits. Myron, Lisa, Mike, John Thompson, George Wendt all had perfect days at the plate. But that was all the scoring for CC. And they then had to hold their breath.

MS2, playing with five substitutes, put on a gallant comeback to almost win the game. After getting shutout by pitcher Ramiro Escamilla in the first two innings, they posted a five spot in the third. The big hit of the inning was a three-run home run by Stan the Man Isbell. He hit it hard, right down the 1st base line and scored easily. After being shut down in the fourth, MS2, trailing 10-5, came to bat in the last inning with their hats turned backward. It was rally time. The bottom of the order produced two runs leaving the bases loaded for Stan the Man. He knocked in two more to bring MS2 to within one run. After a ground out advanced the runners, up stepped Mick. Mick hit a scorcher of a line drive. If it was not going to be caught, it meant three runs. George Wendt never moved and caught the ball. Final score, 10-9, Corpal Coral. Gary Weisner, Randy Brewer, Ken Ford, Sharon Deputy, and Carl Caruso all had perfect days at the plate.

Since we had two games today, we double the number of volunteers who gave their time to make our Senior League special. A special thanks to our umpires – Steve Pratt (HP), Warren

Fowler (1B), and first year ump Bobby Duncan (3B) in game one and Rocky Dudley (HP), Bob Collins (1B) and first year ump John Basse (3B). And in the Press Box operating the scoreboard for both games was Senior League mainstay Rick Rubin. He was joined in the 1st game by Clyde Ziegler keeping the scorebook and Pete Day doing the book in the 2nd game. Since the audio equipment was still being prepared, Jim Reese performed his PA duties sans mike in the first game, but ran out of voice in the second. Thanks to all in the press box.

And then there is Christa Prim. Christa plays for Wise Health in the Coed League and came out watch the Senior League opener. After the games were over, seeing that the Senior players were somewhat exhausted, Christa gets out the tractor and drags the infield. Simply awesome. Thank you, Christa

See you next Wednesday, 10:00 for more fun, laughter, and excitement.