

The week started well for the Henderson County Older Sluggers coached by Stan Steinberg and sponsored by Carolina Blinds. On Monday, May 13th Henderson County welcomed the Franklin Older Bones to Jackson Park for a pair of Clayton 68+ League contests. With Don Ward on the mound, the Sluggers built a 20-8 lead through six innings. The flip-flop rule was invoked and Franklin bunched a number of hits with a few errors thrown in to score seven runs to make the final score a more respectable 20-15. The Sluggers pounded out seven doubles and a triple and had a team batting average of 0.659 in game one. The offense was led by perfect outings from Bob Drew (3-3 with a sacrifice fly), Mike Warner (4-4), Rick Sweeney (3-3 with a double), and Tim Epley (3-3 with a double). Others aiding the cause were Don Ward (3-4 with a double and a triple), Gene Reiser (2-3), Jim Zitney (3-4), Scott Searle (2-3 with a walk and two doubles), and Don Phipps (1-2 before having to leave the game with an injured leg after taking a shot off the shin at third base). In game two Franklin scored five runs in the top of the first and it looked like it might be a close game. However, the Sluggers matched the five Franklin put up. The Older Bones would not put up another five-run inning while the Sluggers maxed out every inning in rolling to a comfortable 30-16 win over Franklin. Don Ward again took the win on the mound with some relief help from David Keith. Henderson County had a team batting average of 0.897 with 35 hits in 39 at-bats in the second game and only made a total of four outs in the game. The Sluggers drilled five doubles and four home runs in the game. As one might expect, the Sluggers had nine players with perfect outings at the plate in game two. Leading the way for Henderson County were Bob Drew (2-2 with two walks), Don Ward (4-4 with a double), Gary Ayers (4-4 with two home runs), Gene Reiser (4-4 with a double), Jim Zitney (3-3 with a walk), Mark Hammer (4-4 with two doubles and a home run), Mike Warner (4-4 again), Scott Searle (2-2 with two walks), and Tim Epley (3-3 with a home run). Others aiding the cause were David Keith (2-3) and Gary Warren (2-3). With the sweep, Henderson County ran their record in the Clayton 68+ League to 5-1 on the year.

The scheduled Wednesday game for the mixed 60+ team versus the Burnsville Bears was rained out so the two teams squared off on Friday, May 17th at Cane River Park in Burnsville. The Henderson County mixed 60+ team was sponsored by Advanced Dermatology and Skin Surgery and coached by Bud Bonnema for these games. In the opening game, Henderson County rolled to a decisive flip-flop 22-10 victory over the Bears. Don Chambers picked up the win on the mound. The offensive effort was led by Kirk Hall (3-3) and Norm Royo (3-3 with a walk). In addition, John Musser (3-4), Tom Welbourn (3-4), Randy Bowman (2-3 with a walk), Don Chambers (2-3), and Robert Novak (2-3) pitched in with near perfect outings. Henderson County had a team batting average of 0.537 with 22 hits in 41 at-bats. Game two was very similar to the first game except there was no flip flop since the mixed Sluggers were the home team. With Don Chambers again toeing the mound the mixed Sluggers romped to a 19-5 win. The team batting average ticked up slightly to 0.578 as the Sluggers garnered 26 hits in 45 at-bats. No one was perfect at the plate in the second game but the offense was led by Norm Royo (4-5), John Musser (3-4), Bill Close (3-4), Don Chambers (3-4), Kirk Hall (3-4), Jim Ready (2-3 with a walk), and Robert Novak (3-4 with an inside the park home run). We want to acknowledge Rachel Kane for keeping the scorebook today. With the pair of wins, the Henderson County mixed 60+ Sluggers ran their season record to 3-1.

The next scheduled action for the Henderson County Senior Softball League will have the Henderson County Older Sluggers traveling to Tiger, GA on Monday, May 20th to face the

Rabun County Older Relics in a Clayton 68+ League battle for first place. Rabun County currently sits atop the standings with a 4-0 record while Henderson County resides in second place at 5-1. On Wednesday, May 22nd the Henderson County mixed 70+ Sluggers will play host to Lake Keowee at Jackson Park to kick off their season. The mixed 70+ team is coached by Danny Davis and Andy Hinds.

The Henderson County Senior Softball League is always looking for new players age 50 and older (35 and older for ladies). Regular league games are normally played on Monday and Friday mornings at 9:30 on fields 8 and 9 at Jackson Park in Hendersonville. For additional information call 828-260-2130 or go to Henderson County Senior Softball at <https://hcssoftball.com>.