

The mixed Sluggers 60+ and 70+ travel teams represented the Henderson County Senior Softball League quite well this week as both teams went undefeated. On Wednesday, May 29th, the mixed 60+ team coached by Bud Bonnema and sponsored this week by **LEONARD & MOORE, PLLC** welcomed the Burnsville Bears to Jackson Park for a pair of games. The Bears needed a couple of players to fill out their team so we need to give a shout out to John Musser and Roger Helm for graciously volunteering to move over to the Burnsville roster so the games could go on. The first game started with Burnsville scoring five runs while making only one out courtesy of a three-run inside-the-park home run from Division 1 Vice President John Musser. Hopefully, this transgression will be forgotten or forgiven come election time in October. As if this wasn't bad enough the mixed Sluggers went down in order in their half of the inning to fall behind 5-0 after one inning of play. Order was restored to the universe when the mixed Sluggers scored five runs in each of the next four innings to take a lead they would not relinquish. Burnsville did manage to score four runs in the 3rd inning and five runs in the final inning but Henderson County took the victory 22-16. Joe Fishleigh captured the win on the mound. The mixed Sluggers were led at the plate with perfect outings from Tom Welbourn (4-4 with a double and a triple), Frank Johnson (3-3 with a double and a triple), and Bud Bonnema (3-3). Other offensive contributions came from Kirk Hall, Jim Ready, Steve Strusowski, and Rob Kennedy who each went 3-4. Randy Bowman and Robert Novak both were 2-3 with Robert belting a triple. Joe Fishleigh was 1-2 with a walk. The team batting average for game one was 0.780. Although the team batting average dipped a little in game two to 0.651 the mixed Sluggers still produced plenty of offense as they rolled to a 24-9 win over the Bears. Joe Fishleigh again was the winning pitcher.

Henderson County put up five runs in four of their six innings at bat including the top of the first. Burnsville scored four in the bottom of the first but that was their top output of the second game. The mixed Sluggers had perfect outings in game two from Joe Fishleigh (4-4 with a home run), Kevin Doyle (4-4 with a double), Tom Welbourn (3-3 with a triple completing a perfect day at 7-7), Rob Kennedy (3-3 with a triple). Randy Bowman (2-2 with a double and two walks). Kirk Hall aided the cause going 2-3 with a sacrifice fly. The pair of wins ran the mixed 60+ Sluggers record to 5-1 on the year.

While the mixed 60+ Sluggers were playing at home the mixed 70+ Sluggers took to the road as they traveled to Sandy Andrews Park in Marion, NC to face the High Country team from Boone. The mixed 70+ Sluggers were sponsored by **JOEY'S BAGELS** for this game and coached by Danny Davis and Andy Hinds. The mixed 70+ Sluggers started the game hot as they scored five runs without making an out. That was the good news. The bad news is that High Country put up five runs of their own while making only one out. The bad news continued over the next two innings as Henderson County went scoreless while Boone added four more runs to their total. The good news returned in the fourth inning as the mixed Sluggers scored five runs in each of the next four innings while holding High Country to four runs over the course of the game to capture a 20-13 flip-flop victory. Don Chambers was the winning pitcher. In game two Henderson County held High Country scoreless for the first five innings while building a 14-0 lead.

Boone did come back to put up four runs in the last two innings but the mixed Sluggers finished the day with a comfortable 14-4 victory. Don Chambers again picked up the win on the mound. The mixed team did not have a scorebook so there are no individual stats to report but everyone on the roster had multiple hits and/or reached base safely on walks. Players participating in this

game for Henderson County were Al Kmiecik, Don Chambers, Jim Wicker, Gary Warren, Brad Swift, Andy Hinds, Dwight Moore, Cliff Coggins, Gene Reiser, Wayne Hallgren, Sid the Surf Hilker, and Danny Davis. With the pair of wins the mixed 70+ team ran their record on the year to 4-0.

The Henderson County Older Sluggers will return to action next week as they return to Tiger, Georgia to battle the North Georgia Patriots in three five-inning games in Clayton League play. The earlier scheduled games with North Georgia were rained out making it necessary to play the three abbreviated games. Unfortunately, the 68+ Sluggers will not have David Keith for these games as he is out indefinitely with pneumonia so we need to keep David in our thoughts and prayers as he recovers. The two mixed travel teams will not return to action until June 12th.

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>.