

Week of Monday, June 3, 2024

The Henderson County Senior Softball League had only one team in action this week. On Monday, June 3rd, the Henderson County 68+ Older Sluggers coached by Stan Steinberg and sponsored this week by **Advanced Dermatology & Skin Surgery** traveled to Tiger, GA to face the North Georgia Patriots for three five-inning games. The three-game format became necessary when the scheduled May 6th games were rained out. With their top two pitchers unavailable for these games there was a little concern that the Sluggers might have trouble with the Patriots. However, Stan Steinberg toed the mound for all three games and, backed by a solid defense, held the Patriots to a total of 19 runs for the three games. The Older Sluggers put up 58 runs in two fewer innings as they did not bat in the bottom of the fifth inning in the 2nd or 3rd game. The first game saw Henderson County score five runs in each inning while limiting North Georgia to ten runs for a 25-10 victory. The bright sun shining on the right side of the diamond made life difficult for the outfielders on both teams. Henderson County had a team batting average of 0.780 while drilling nine doubles, two triples, and a home run. Leading the offensive onslaught for the Sluggers with perfect batting were Scott Searle (4-4 with two doubles), Jerry Austin (3-3 with three doubles), Jim Zitney (3-3 with a double and a triple), Tim Epley 3-3 (with a double and a triple), Gary Ayers (2-2 with a sacrifice fly), Gary Warren (3-3 with a home run), and Roger Helm (3-3 with a double). Aiding the cause with near-perfect games were Gene Reiser (2-3), Rick Sweeney (2-3), and Stan Steinberg (2-3). Game two was similar to the first game for the Older Sluggers as they had a team batting average of 0.793. Without batting in the fifth inning, the Older Sluggers cranked out eight doubles, two triples, and two home runs. Stan Steinberg picked up his second win of the day on the mound and Henderson County held North Georgia to an average of one run per inning in rolling to the 19-5 victory. The entire team had either a perfect outing or near-perfect results for the second game. Leading the charge were Mark Hammer (3-3 with two doubles), Jerry Austin (3-3 with two doubles), Jim Zitney (3-3 with two doubles and a home run), Gene Reiser (2-2), Rick Sweeney (1-1 with a walk), Stan Steinberg (2-2 with a triple), and Roger Helm (1-1 with a walk). Aiding the effort were Scott Searle (2-3 with a home run), Bob Drew (2-3), Tim Epley (1-2), Gary Ayers (1-2 with a double), Gary Warren (1-2 with a double), and Richard White (1-2 with a triple). Henderson County completed the trifecta with a 14-4 win over North Georgia in the third game. The defense continued to sparkle for the Older Sluggers as Stan Steinberg picked up victory number three on the mound. Henderson County had a team batting average of 0.708 as they went scoreless for the first time all day in the fourth inning. The Older Sluggers drilled four doubles and two home runs and were led at the plate with perfect outings from Bob Drew (3-3), Gary Ayers (2-2), Gene Reiser (1-1 with a walk), Jim Zitney (two walks), Tim Epley (2-2 with two home runs), and Richard White (2-2 with two doubles). Also with good games but not quite perfect were Mark Hammer (2-3 with a double), Ricky Sweeney (1-2), Roger Helm (1-2), Scott Searle (1-2 with a walk), and Stan Steinberg (1-2). Gary Warren was injured late in game two and did not play the third game but was probably nearly perfect as the scorekeeper. With the three wins on the day, Henderson County ran their record to 10-1 and strengthened their hold on first place in the 68+ Clayton League standings.

Next week will be a busy one for the Henderson County Senior Softball League. On Monday, June 10th, the Older Sluggers will welcome the Lake Keowee Eagles

to Jackson Park in Hendersonville for a pair of 68+ Clayton League games. On Tuesday, June 11th, the newly created Exhibition Team will play host to the Tri-Cities Travel Team at Jackson Park. On Wednesday, June 12th, both mixed teams will be in action. The mixed 70+ squad will host the Upstate SC 70+ team at Jackson Park while the mixed 60+ team will travel to Sandy Andrews Memorial Park in Marion, NC to face the High Country 60+ team from Boone.

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>.