

## Week of Monday, June 10, 2024

It was a stellar week for the Henderson County Senior Softball League as all three of the travel teams that saw action swept their opponents. On Monday, June 10th, the Henderson County Older Sluggers coached by Stan Steinberg and sponsored this week by the **Hunter Automotive Group** welcomed the Lake Keowee Eagles to Jackson Park in Hendersonville for a pair of Clayton 68+ League contests. The Older Sluggers came out of the gate swinging and put up five runs in the top of the first inning. When Lake Keowee could only muster two runs in their half of the inning, Henderson County took a 5-2 lead into the second inning. Unfortunately, the Older Sluggers could not score in the second frame while the Eagles notched five runs to take a 7-5 lead into the third inning. At that point, order was restored to the universe and Henderson County reverted to its normal form in rolling to a 24-10 flip-flop victory over Lake Keowee. Don Ward picked up the win on the mound. The Older Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.750 in the first game while pounding out nine doubles, a triple, and a home run. Six Older Sluggers batted 1.000 including Don Ward (4-4 with two doubles), Gary Ayers (3-3 with a double), Gene Reiser (3-3 with a triple), Jim Zitney (2-2 with a walk), Scott Searle (3-3 with a double and a walk), and Sonny Johnston (3-3 with two doubles and a home run). Also aiding in the offensive outburst were Bob Drew (2-3 with a double and a walk), Mike Warner (1-2 with a sacrifice fly), Richard White (2-3), Roger Helm (2-3), Stan Steinberg (2-3), and Tim Epley (1-2 with a double and a walk). Game two saw Henderson County methodically roll to another flip-flop victory over the Eagles by a score of 22-8 with Don Ward again notching the win on the mound. The team batting average rose to 0.813 in the second game with the Older Sluggers drilling seven doubles and two triples. Eight Henderson County players achieved a perfect batting average in game two including Don Ward (3-3), Sonny Johnston (3-3 with a double), Dave Clay (2-2 with two doubles), Richard White (2-2 with two doubles), Gary Ayers (1-1 with a sacrifice fly), Roger Helm (2-2), Scott Searle (2-2 with a double and a walk), and Stan Steinberg (2-2). Also aiding the cause but not quite achieving perfection were Bob Drew (2-3 with a triple), Gene Reiser (1-2 with a walk), Jim Zitney (2-3 with a double and a triple), Mike Warner (1-2 with a sacrifice fly), Rick Sweeney (1-2 with a double), and Tim Epley (2-3). With the pair of wins Henderson County continues to set the standard with a 12-1 record in the Clayton 68+ League.

On Tuesday, June 11th, the Henderson County Exhibition Sluggers coached by Sonny Johnston and sponsored this game by **The Pump House Fitness Center** welcomed the Tri-Cities 65+ Travel team to Jackson Park. Game one was a slugfest with the two teams producing 52 runs. However, when the smoke cleared it was Henderson County that secured the 28-24 victory with Don Ward picking up another win on the mound. The Exhibition Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.684 while pounding out six doubles, two triples, and a home run. Three Exhibition Sluggers were perfect at the plate comprised of Roger Helm (4-4), John Musser (2-2 with a double and two walks), and Gene Reiser (2-2 with a double and two walks). The Sluggers that neared perfection included Don Ward (4-5 with a triple), Doug Miller (1-2 with two walks), Jim Zitney (3-4 with a double), Randy Bowman (2-3 with a double and a walk), and Sonny Johnston (3-4 with a home run for the second day in a row). In game two the Exhibition Sluggers came away with a satisfying 26-19 victory over Tri-Cities with Don Ward again capturing the win of the mound. Although the number of extra-base hits (three doubles and a triple) fell off in the second game, the Sluggers upped their team batting average to 0.769. Four Sluggers that were

perfect at the plate in game two were Don Ward (3-3), Gene Reiser (3-3 with a walk), Scott Searle (5-5 with a triple), and Tom Welbourn (5-5 with two doubles). Also contributing but not quite perfect were Jim Zitney (3-4), John Musser (2-3 with a walk), Robert Novak (3-4 with a double), and Sonny Johnston (3-4).

On Wednesday, June 12th, the mixed 60+ Sluggers sponsored by **Orchard Lake Campground** for this game traveled to Sandy Andrews Memorial Park in Marion, NC to face the High Country 60+ team from Boone. Not sure who the coach was and there were no stats entered in Team Snap so all I can report are the scores. In game one, the two teams entered the final inning tied at 13 all. High Country scored one run to take the lead but Henderson County responded with two runs in the bottom of the 7th to pull out a 15-14 victory. In game two, Henderson County captured the win by a score of 18-14. Don't know who the winning pitchers were or who had great days at the plate so I'll report the players on the roster for this game and you can use your imagination.

Representing Henderson County were

Randy Bowman, Joe Fishleigh, Bill Kane, Bud Bonnema, Don Chambers, Frank Johnson, Kevin Doyle, Kirk Hall, Rob Kennedy, Steve Strusowski, and Tom Welbourn. With the pairs of wins, the mixed 60+ Sluggers ran their record to 7-1 on the year.

Next week will see the Henderson County Older Sluggers traveling to Tiger, Georgia on Monday to battle the second-place Rabun County Older Relics in Clayton 68+ League play. On Wednesday, the Henderson County mixed 70+ Sluggers will welcome the Upstate SC 70+ squad to Jackson Park.

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>.