

Weeks of August 12th & 19th

You are getting some week-old news in this report so just pretend you're reading the Asheville newspaper. Wait, that can't be right because they don't even report the scores of the Asheville Tourists games so we'll just move along. On Monday, August 12th, the Henderson County Older Sluggers played host to the Franklin Older Bones for a couple of Clayton 68+ League games. The Older Sluggers were sponsored by **Advanced Dermatology and Skin Surgery, PA** and coached by Stan Steinberg in these games. The Older Sluggers never trailed in game one as they pounded Franklin 19-4. Henderson County had a team batting average of 0.694 but what was most impressive is that 60% of their hits went for extra bases as they had eleven doubles and four triples in the game. Equally impressive was that seven of the Sluggers had perfect games at the plate: Don Ward 3-3 with a double and a triple, Gene Reiser 3-3 with two doubles and a triple, Jerry Austin 3-3 with two doubles, Jim Zitney 3-3, Mark Hammer 3-3 with two doubles, Roger Helm 2-2 with a double, and Sonny Johnston 3-3 with two doubles and a triple. Game two was more of the same as the Sluggers picked up a double flip-flop 22-6 victory over Franklin. The team batting average improved to 0.758 in this game as the Sluggers pounded out six doubles, a triple, and four home runs. Five Henderson County players had perfect outings in game two with six more being nearly perfect. Leading the offensive charge were Bob Drew 3-3, Gene Reiser 3-3, Scott Searle 3-3, Mark Hammer 3-3 with all of the hits being doubles, and Sonny Johnston 2-2 with a double, home run, and a sacrifice fly. Also aiding the cause were David Keith 2-3 with a triple, Jerry Austin 2-3 with two home runs, Rick Sweeney 1-2, Jim Zitney 1-2 with a walk, Roger Helm 2-3 with a double, and Tim Epley 2-3 with a home run. With the pair of wins, Henderson County ran their record to 24-2 in the Clayton 68+ League and maintained their hold on first place.

On Wednesday, August 14th, the Henderson County mixed 60+ team traveled to Sandy Andrews Memorial Park in Marion, NC to face the High Country squad from Boone, NC. The mixed 60+ team was coached by John Musser and sponsored by **WNC Family Medical Center** for these games. In game one Henderson County rolled to a 17-7 win over High Country with Don Chambers picking up the victory on the mound. The mixed Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.559 as they pounded out two doubles, three triples, and two home runs. Leading the way with perfect outings were Tom Welbourn 3-3 with a triple and Roger Helm 3-3. Also pitching in were Frank Johnson 2-3 with two doubles, John Musser 2-3 with a double, Kevin Doyle 3-4 with a triple and a home run, Kirk Hall 2-3, and Jim Ready with a home run.

Game two produced another win for the mixed Sluggers as they prevailed by a 14-9 score with Dwight Moore notching the victory on the mound. The team batting average improved to 0.643 in the second game but the defensive performance took a nose dive as sloppy play provided several gift runs to Boone. Three Sluggers had perfect outings in game two led by John Musser 3-3 with a double, Joe Fishleigh 2-2 with a triple and a walk, and Randy Bowman 2-2 with a walk. Also chipping in were Bill Kane 2-3, Don Chambers 2-3, Kirk Hall 2-3, Frank Johnson 2-3 with a double, and Kevin Doyle with a home run. The pair of wins ran the mixed 60's record to 14-2 on the season.

On Monday, August 19th, the Henderson County Older Sluggers traveled to Tiger, Georgia to face the Rabun County Relics in a showdown between the top two teams in the Clayton 68+ League. Henderson County was coached by Stan Steinberg and sponsored by **Hunter Automotive Group** for these games. Rabun County proved to be the dominant team in game one as they picked up a 26-16 win over the Older Sluggers. Don Ward suffered the loss on the mound. Henderson County had a team batting

average of 0.633. Leading the way with perfect outings were Gene Reiser 3-3 with a double, Jerry Austin 2-2 with a sacrifice fly, and Tim Epley 3-3 with two doubles. Near-perfect outings came from David Keith 2-3 with a double, Rick Sweeney 2-3, Roger Helm 2-3, and Stan Steinberg 2-3.

Game two produced more normal results for the Sluggers as they picked up a 20-12 win over the Relics. David Keith notched the win on the mound with relief help from Don Ward. Henderson County upped their team batting average to 0.778 in the second game as they banged out five doubles, four triples, and a home run.

Leading the offensive charge with perfect plate appearances were David Keith 3-3, Jim Zitney 4-4 with two doubles, Roger Helm 2-2 with a triple and a sacrifice fly, and Sonny Johnston 4-4 with two triples. Also aiding the cause were Don Ward 3-4 with two doubles, Gene Reiser 3-4 with a home run, Jerry Austin 2-3 with a double, Bob Drew 1-2 with a walk, Rick Sweeney 3-4, and Scott Searle 1-2 with a walk. The Sluggers were missing two key players for these games due to medical issues. Gary Ayers suffered a heart attack on August 11th and Mark Hammer was out due to Covid. We wish both players a quick return to good health. With the split with Rabun County, Henderson County improved their record on the season to 25-3 in the Clayton League and continue their stay in first place with a two-game lead over the Relics in the loss column.

Next week will have two teams taking to the road. On Monday, August 26th, the Henderson County Older Sluggers will return to Tiger, Georgia to battle the North Georgia Patriots in Clayton 68+ League play. On Wednesday, August 28th, the mixed 70+ Sluggers will head to Sandy Andrews Memorial Park in Marion, NC to face the High Country 70+ 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>.