

## Week of Monday, September 2nd

Most of the Henderson County Senior Softball League's travel teams had the week off in celebration of Labor Day. Still, the mixed 60+ Sluggers were the exception as they traveled to Cane River Park in Burnsville on Wednesday, September 4th, to face the Burnsville Bears. The mixed 60+ Sluggers were coached by Bud Bonnema and sponsored by **The Pump House Fitness Center** for these games. Game one was not the best offensive display of the season for the Sluggers as they produced a team batting average of 0.535 but it was good enough to walk away with a 14-9 victory over the Bears. Don Chambers picked up the win on the mound. The offensive charge was led by Jim Ready and Stan Steinberg who both went 4-4 at the plate. Chipping in with near-perfect outings were Kirk Hall (3-4 with a double), Sonny Johnston (3-4 with a double), and Tom Welbourn (3-4 with a triple).

Game two saw the offense pick up for the Sluggers as they raised their team batting average 200 points to 0.735 as they coasted to a 15-6 double flip-flop win over the Bears. Henderson County led 15-0 after five innings of play, but Burnsville scored six runs in the seventh to narrow the margin. Once again Don Chambers was the winning pitcher. The Sluggers had five players who were perfect in game two: Sonny Johnston (4-4 with two doubles), Kirk Hall (3-3 with two doubles), Bud Bonnema (3-3), Randy Bowman (3-3), and Tom Welbourn (3-3 with two doubles). Also aiding the cause and one out away from perfection were Don Phipps (2-3), Jim Ready (2-3 with a double), Stan Steinberg (2-3 with a double), and Bill Kane (1-2). With the pair of wins the mixed 60+ Sluggers extended their record on the season to 16-2.

As mentioned in last week's report, there were no statistics available for the mixed 70+ Sluggers games versus High Country and it was impossible to remember how everyone in the lineup performed during the games. Therefore, I chose not to mention anyone by name at the risk of omitting someone who had a good game. With that said there were two players at the bottom of the lineup who held up the rest of the team on their shoulders with perfect days at the plate in each game. I thought they might have each batted 1.000 on the day and each player confirmed that they did indeed do just that. So a week late but a big shout out to Don Chambers and Al Kmiecik for great days at the plate.

Next week has two teams scheduled to hit the road. On Monday, September 9th, the Henderson County 68+ Older Sluggers will travel to Nettles Park in Pendleton, SC to face the Lake Keowee Eagles in Clayton 68+ League play. On Tuesday, September 10th, the Exhibition Sluggers will go over the mountain to Winged Deer Park in Johnson City, TN to battle the Tri-Cities 65+ travel team.

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>.