

SCRAP IRON Softball



July 2020



Independence Day July 4, 2020, our country will be celebrating its 244th birthday! With all the craziness going on I still believe we have the best country in the world. I like the old saying " Love it or Leave it !" As we approach the celebration day of fireworks, family get togethers, and Barbecues let's remember all the sacrifices made by many that allows us to truly be thankful of our freedoms. One freedom we all are a little guilty of taking for granted is our freedom to play softball at our age. Who would have ever thought 25-30 years ago we would be still playing the game we are all passionate about. Since I retired I cannot imagine what I would be doing if it were not for senior softball. It seems the older I get the more I want and the more time I want to spend with my teammates. I love my teammates (in a manly way of course). In this issue unfortunately we do have some sad news to report we have lost two Scrap Iron members and a third one in hospice at this writing. I have said it at least a Thousand times, "you never know when you will step into that batters box for the last time" let's go one further, you never know when you will be giving that beloved teammate that last high five.

Hopefully you all are staying healthy and ready to get this 2020 season rolling. Best Wishes and Happy Independence Day! Art

Team news

Heavy Metal 60AAA made the trek to balmy Tulsa for the Oil City Classic and started out 2-0 in seeding games before losing the third seeding game by just a few runs. That 2-1 seeding record was good enough to place us as the second seed due to the stingy number of runs we allowed. We were feeling pretty good at the team dinner Saturday night even though our bats were not up Heavy Metal 60AAA made the trek to balmy Tulsa for the Oil City Classic and started out 2-0 in seeding games before losing the third seeding game by just a few runs. That 2-1 seeding record was good enough to place us as the second seed due to the stingy number of runs we allowed. We were feeling pretty good at the team dinner Saturday night even though our bats were not up to our usual production. Sunday saw those bats continue to struggle and even though we were 0-2 and were eliminated, the defense continued to shine. Heavy Metal would like to thank our three guest players from High Octane, Russ Johnson, Terry Roberts and Larry Voorhees for making the trip with us and giving us enough guys to enter the tournament. Metal's next tournament will not be until the Spring Worlds in St George in August, followed by the Rocky Mountains the following week. As a side note, Metal had, BY FAR, the coolest protective masks at the venue as illustrated below:



Like Heavy Metal, we had the best gators in the complex. Great job done by Vapor Apparel and Mike Fullerton.

Elite 50s played in Yuma, AZ. We fought triple-digit weather to go 1-1 in pool play, earning us the 5th seed out of 8 team. We went 2-1 on Saturday and 2-1 on Sunday to finish 5-3 and 3rd overall in the tournament. Not a bad showing considering we played most of the tournament with 10 players.

Elite 50s next scheduled tournament is the Western National in Sacramento July 31-August 2.



Like Elite and Heavy Metal, Scrap Iron 5280' had the best neck gaiters in the first session at Tulsa. And, we earned a little action figure. Push the 2nd Place button and he swings the bat. We played 8 games in two days. We split our pool games and lost a close exhibition game against a major team Thursday. It was a nice warm up. We started Friday as the 5th seed out of 6 and lost the most important first game of the brackets. But then, we rung up three straight in the losers bracket, including two flip flops, and headed to the championship game. Unfortunately, we ran out of gas and didn't do so well in that game. We were pretty proud of second given what we went through. We would like to thank Joe LaRoue, Mike Anderson and Norm Friedman for helping us out. Ken Haitt batted .900 as lead off and we had 9 inside the park home runs. As a team we batted .662. More than anything we had a good time. This was a test for 5280' to see if playing tournament ball in the corona virus era is worth while. We all came away thinking YES! Terry Goodrich.



The Rocky Mountain Thunder 60s struggled to a 2-4 record in our first tournament of the year in Tulsa. 3 of our 4 losses were by 1-run and we were in every game to the end. Some rust was definitely showing as we played two teams that had played in the Missouri Open two weeks earlier. The hitting stars were Ricky Stillwell and Brad Edginton, .867 and .850 OBPs respectively, with Brad leading the team with 3 homeruns. Chris McTigue also had an excellent tournament with a .800 OBP and a couple of homeruns. Everyone had a good time and there were no injuries to speak of, which is always a good thing early in a season. We also found some great BBQ and several ice cream shops near our hotel, which may have led to our slow start at the fields.

High Octane went to Tulsa to compete in the Oil City Classic. We could tell it was our first tournament as the rust was evident. We battled the wind and heat and ended up in the Championship game on Friday afternoon. We went into the 5th inning tied at 12 to 12 and forgot to score any more !! It was good to get back out playing, especially being around the guys. We had planned to go to Rogers Arkansas next, but just pulled out yesterday as that area is increasing in the amount of Covid cases. Hope everyone stays safe and healthy. Dave Adams.

Scrap Iron 65 Classics made the trip to Tulsa for the Oil City Classic. We had a 4-team division for 65-AAA. With no league or practice games, we did pretty well as a team. Several players had a first time meeting of others as we introduced ourselves during team meeting before the first game. Our batting was strong and consistent which kept us in the close games and sealed the win in the champion game. We averaged 23 runs per game with only one scoreless inning and 5 innings with less than 3 runs. Defense was sufficient enough to win with stellar individual plays at critical times (particularly at third, all across the outfield, and a run/game saving hustle at first to keep the ball in play to freeze the runner at first) and solid pitching making the difference overall. We were missing our starting SS which did not help, but we managed to improve with each game. As one teammate noted 'It was fun to watch our team figure things out on the fly and even win a tournament'. In summary we were 2-1 in the round robin on Thursday, losing to the Plainsmen from Nebraska 20-19 (our lowest scoring game) in the bottom of the 7th inning. They took the No.1 seed at 3-0 on Thursday and we had the No.2 spot. We met up in the finals of the winner's bracket and won by 1 run and then handled them pretty soundly in the championship game (30-17). In fairness they were a bit tired after three straight games, but with our defense improving each game, I like to think we would have won anyway, all things being equal. Even at that, it was a close game as we were up by only 3 runs (16-14) after 4 innings. We finally shut them down and outscored them 14-3 the final 3 innings, holding them scoreless in the bottom of the 7th.

First year as a team, First tournament, and First Place!!! Not a bad start. Our next tournament is in mid-July in Prescott AZ.



Scrap Iron Hit Men, this was our first tournament and first time we have played together. We played KC Vintage out of Missouri. Battled back and forth all game. We were down by two runs in the bottom of the 7th. 2 guys got on and Fabian Montoya hit a walk-off 3 Run homer for our first ever win. 2nd game we played 417 Legends out of Missouri. We were up 14-2 after 3 innings. Bats went cold and we ended up losing 17-15. 3rd game we played KC Vintage again. We were tied in the 5th inning, and we put up a zero in the 6th. Their bats got hot and we lost by a few runs. 4th game we came from behind in the open inning and put up 9 runs and won by 6 runs vs. the 417 Legends. 5th game we played 417 again. Battled all game and was once again tied in the 5th. Winner of that game would go to the Championship. We lost by 3 runs. We ended up taking third. We did some good things, and we learned a lot. I was very proud of my team, we were in every game. I too, am sore. It was a great two days. It was awesome getting back on the field again. We are going to be a tough team to beat for a first year team. MARK GALLEGOS, manager.



Paul Zalus, 72, of St. George, Utah, died on June 9.

Zalus began playing with teams out of Ohio, as a member of Steel Dawgs and Dayton Legends, among others. He then played with teams from Colorado, playing with various Scrap Iron teams. He last played in 2015 with Scrap Iron/CO T-Wolves 65. Along with playing, Paul was a long-time umpire with SSUSA.

I knew Paul from playing a couple tournaments with him but mostly from umpiring, I remember sitting in the shade and having long talks with Paul, I will never forget his laugh the day he was umpiring our game in Reno, the other team had the bases loaded with the fifth run on third, their power hitter was up to bat, and our catcher yells “walk him” our pitcher makes the motion as I’m yelling NO! Paul laughed out loud as the other team walked in their 5th run. I will surly miss him, he was a good guy with a great sense of humor. Art Graebe

I knew Paul well. He and Vivian have stayed at my house on several occasions when visiting Vivian's daughter here in Colorado. He has always treated me with upmost kindness. He also has stories that are so funny as well. He was an excellent softball player and umpire. I believe he told me he has over 20 rings from winning national tournaments. I am sure he would give them all up for good health again. He also was an avid bowler and competed in national tournaments for years. He had been battling this prostate cancer for over 12 years. He has worn two bags for over 2 years, one for urine, and the other for stools. Most people would have given up a long time ago. DuWayne Pillard

Early on about mid March Steve Lents and members of his family caught the Covid virus, Shortly thereafter Steve's son died from the virus and Steve went into the hospital. He came back out but days later went back in. Sometime after he too passed. All this information was given to me by multiple parties, hopefully it's fairly accurate.

I played with Steve on a Scrapiron team and likewise he played on a team I managed. What stands out to me when asked about Steve was his approach to each player the same on all levels. He would never raise his voice or curse. Listening was his best attribute. When someone erred or made a bad play he was the first to get you back in the game. He will be missed. We need more Steve's....Dennis LeBlanc

I have heard conflicting reports about the final days of Steve so I won't address those issues. Let me say that if I had my choice of good next door neighbors Steve and Kay would be on the top of my list. They were such a loving and considerate couple to all they knew. In all the time I spent with Steve I never heard him say a bad word about anyone. He accepted everyone as they appeared to him.

My first senior softball coach was Steve Lents. I liked him from the very start. His attitude was always on the bright side for all to see. As time went on we became teammates for other teams including Scrap Iron 65 managed by Larry Alma. He was always a supportive team mate. Last year he was my team mate on the South Suburban 70+ team managed by Andy Herrebut. The last several years he was haunted with bad physical health in his back and legs. He would

show up for a practice or game barely able to walk. He would play for a while and then lay down on the ground or in the dug out get up and start over again forcing a smile through out the whole ordeal. I feel very lucky to have spent time over the years with Steve and Kay. I will miss Steve and know Kay will be able to deal with her loss because of the love and great memories they shared together. May Steve and his son rest in peace together...Jim Brown

Steve was my very first Scrap Iron manager when I was 60. His team was called the Diamonds in the Rough. Steve was a very knowledgeable player/manager who gave me lots of encouragement, advice, and opportunity. In fact, when I started my first game in Mesquite with the Diamonds, I was playing second base. After one game, in which Steve had me doing a lot of curtesy running, he asked me if I ever played outfield, to which I said, "No." Then he told me he needed legs in the outfield and asked me if I'd give it a try. The rest is history. Perhaps Steve saw I was only a mediocre infielder, but for whatever reason, he moved me to where I needed to play. He was always firm but mild mannered as a manager and pretty fine infielder and hitter as well. I really appreciated his contribution and enjoyed being on his team. Bart Prieve

Steve was one of the kindest and friendliest players I've had the pleasure of being around within Our Scrap Iron club. My memory of Steve will always be his gentle laugh, warm smile and excitement to see you. Rob Minner

Update on our Scrap Iron brother, Ed Andrews, from Don Carpenter

Many of you reading this update on Ed Andrews know him well and even played with him or against him at one time or another during you Senior Softball career.

11 ½ years ago Ed was diagnosed with prostate cancer. He has fought it with many "ups and downs" ever since. Ed spent some of his Senior Softball years on Scrap Iron teams, and he told me the other day that he has played at every level in Senior Softball from AA up to and including MAJOR PLUS.....and his MAJOR PLUS team won the Tournament of Champions (ToC) one year.

Ed has hung up his glove and accepted hospice care into his home a few days ago. He has good days and bad days, but he knows and has accepted that his days are probably

numbered. He would still be happy with a miracle from Almighty God, but he has told God, "Thy will be done."

As Mike Massong said recently, Ed is a character, but he is a good man. I agree wholeheartedly with that. He loves the sport, his teammates, his God, and his loving wife Robin.

If you feel like you would like to speak with Ed, he is taking all of the calls he can. He is weak, but still loves to talk, so you can try, and if nothing else, leave him a message of encouragement from one of his softball brothers.

His cell number is: 970-729-3145. Either way, please include Ed and Robin in your prayers.

I sincerely hope you are enjoying our newsletters, it is my privilege to put this out for our club. Thank you to all those who contributed. Please remember we love to read about your team, not just wins and losses, share your teams personally. Who is the coaches pet? Who tells the funniest jokes, anything that makes your team special! In our next newsletter I would like to dedicate it to our teams personalities. Please don't be the only team not represented, send me your paragraph or two no later than July 25. Now would be awesome because I really don't want to bug you... but you know I will. Art