

# SCRAP IRON Softball



Volume 1 issue 7

July 2018



***Next months issue is dedicated to the Ladies of “Our Amazing, but Somewhat Crazy Men” who play senior softball! Guys, encourage your lady to send in her story. Please submit them to me at [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com). ASAP!***

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**DID YOU KNOW:**

Babe Ruth kept cool during games by wearing a wet cabbage leaf under his cap. He “turned over a new leaf” every two innings.

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*My Senior softball experiences*

By Jim Casswell



My first year playing senior soft I got to experience a gentleman with the first name Ben (I don’t remember his last name) he was in the advancing stages of Parkinson’s disease. The coach convinced him that he should bat at least once that game. He did and hit a shot over the out fielder’s heads and actually he made it to 2nd. This made strong point to me. Play each at bat, inning, game, tournament, etc. like it could be your last.

I am sure any one that has been involved in this kid’s game for long would agree that right up there with any tournament wins or any individual feats are the special people that we get to play with or against or just meet in conjunction with playing this game. If I were to try to list these special people, it would take up the whole newsletter and I would still leave out many special individuals. I can’t stress enough about this, at least for me, how it elevates the game to something special and a reason to keep coming back even after one of my poor performances.

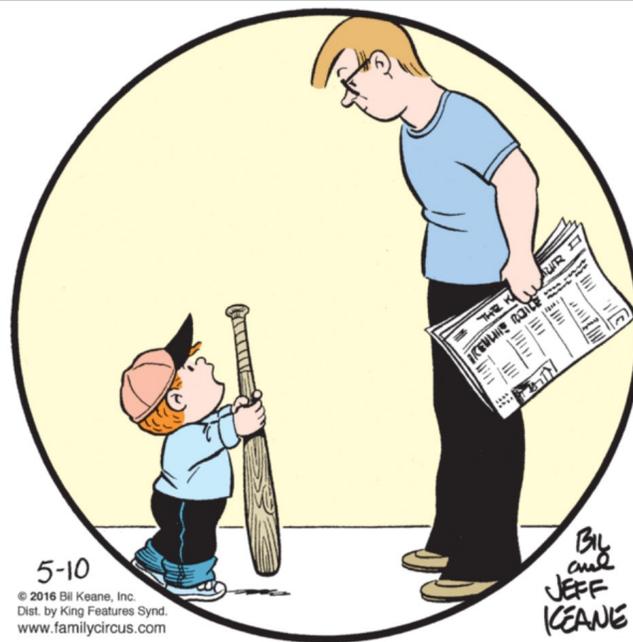
The above comments are even more true about the individuals that are part of our terrific Scrap Iron family. I was at tournament in Vegas and chatting with the SSUSA tournament director. He made the statement that there are guys that just dream of play on a Scrap Iron team.

I do have to mention a couple of the many individual experiences. The first one involves our newsletter editor. Anyone that has played with or been on a team coached by Art, knows he is one of the very special people that I mentioned above. One memory I have, was in Sacramento and were playing AA 55’s and already had 1 home run. Art is a good hitter, but doesn’t put very many over the fence. He smashed a line drive that never came down and ended up over the fence for our 2nd home run and third out. Another player I am thankful to know, is Jesus Bencomo, he has a habit of hitting grand slam walk off home runs (I have had only one walk off home run in all my days). Any team he plays on is better, because of his wonderful personality, that doesn’t even count his high level of skills at playing the game. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Jesus a full recovery from his health issue. He has been a true inspiration to me.

*Quote of the month*

By Anonymous

*OUR SCRAP IRON FAMILY IS LIKE FUDGE...MOSTLY SWEET WITH A FEW NUTS,*



**"I need you to get me a new bat, Daddy. This one doesn't hit anything."**



## Scrap Iron

By Cliff DeKnicker

The first time that I had heard that name was right after I started playing Senior Softball. Back then, it seemed like every tournament I played in, we ended up playing against Scrap Iron. I recall that we lost more than we won against them. I kept thinking to myself, this team sure plays a lot of tournaments out west for a team from Pennsylvania. O.K. I did not catch on right away that there was more than one Scrap Iron and that they were based out of Colorado. It's funny that no matter what age group I was playing, there was Scrap Iron. Well Duh!

In 2017 I finally had the opportunity to join the Scrap Iron Diamonds and see what it is like on the other side of the field. What a pleasure it has been! I do not think I could find a nicer, higher quality group of guys that I have found with the Diamonds.

Last year in Vegas I was invited to the Scrap Iron BBQ at the hotel where most of the players were staying. I was impressed once again that no matter what age group, no matter what state you are from (Arizona) you were made to feel welcome and "part of the team". I have enjoyed playing with the Diamonds this year and am looking forward to maintaining my Scrap Iron status and possible moving up to another age division next year.

Go Scrap Iron!! (Colorado of course, not Pennsylvania!)  
Cliff DeKnicker (Tucson, Arizona)



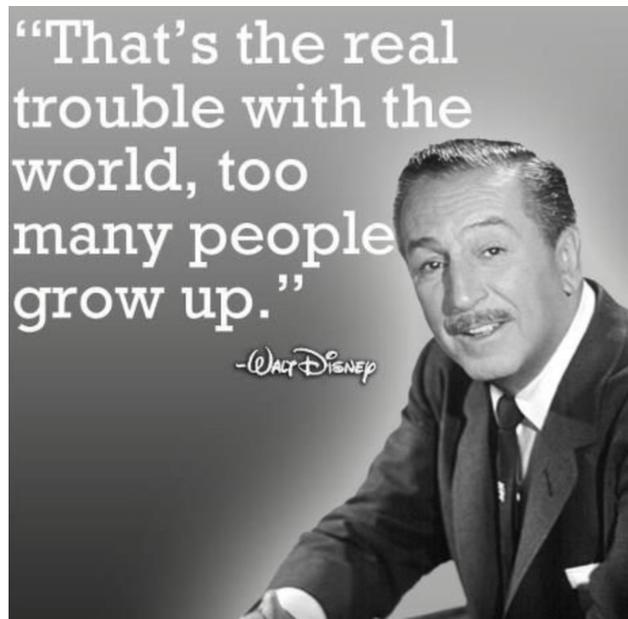
**As of May 2018 we have generated \$79.70 in donations for our club. Scrap Iron receives 1/2 % of all you purchases through Smile Amazon. It's easy to sign up, ask your team manager. This is double what we received in all of 2017.**



Remember to use your grocery card!



**I would like to dedicate our September newsletter to "TRAVEL BUDDIES". Please send me stories about your travel buddy. Send to me [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com) ASAP! Photos appreciated.**





## **Scorekeeping - There's More to It Than You Think**

by Sharon Withrow

I've only been scorekeeping about four years, and there's a lot about it that I enjoy. It keeps you engaged in the game and, in some ways, the scorekeeper knows more about what's happening at any given time than the players do. As one example, it's not unusual for the scorekeeper to be asked

by a Scrap Iron player which inning it is (and top or bottom), the score, what number batter is coming up to the plate, and where does he hit, all while scorekeeping the last play.

For players on both teams, I also keep track of walks, sacrifice flies, extra base hits, RBI's, and runs scored. The Scrap Iron players get a proper recording of how they did in a game/tournament. But when the opposing team is batting, such scorekeeping allows me to warn our guys where he hits, if he's fast, or if he's a power hitter based upon his past performance. I also keep track of balls and strikes. Sometimes the batter may even lose track of the count. For an opposing team hitter, I'll shout "gotta be" on a two strike count. For a Scrap Iron player, I'll give a cautionary "be patient" or "make him pitch to ya" on a three ball count.

I also keep track of the player numbers when a courtesy runner steps in for a baserunner. This detail is important to allow the Scrap Iron player to know if it's safe for him to step on the base and ensure that he can score before his next at bat. It also keeps the other team honest. In a tournament for Scrap Iron major 70's team 3N2 last winter, I recognized that an opposing player stepped in as a courtesy runner when it was not safe for him to do so. With two outs and the courtesy runner on third and an open base, I advised the manager, Mike Massong, to tell the pitcher to intentionally walk the batter. This caused the courtesy runner to be called out because he was next at bat, ending the inning and the game, securing a one run victory for Scrap Iron 3N2. Needless to say, I was thrilled! So sometimes a scorekeeper can even help to win a game.



# My Saddest Day of Softball

By Bart Prieve

Most every day of playing softball is a great day! Even when it's drizzling, or cold, or windy, with sun in the eyes, poor field conditions – it's still a joy to be out there doing what we all love to do – play softball!

But on March 26, 2008, I played in what I will always remember as the saddest softball day of my life. You see, one of my teammates, Ed Rothe, died on the field that day.

We were playing a tournament in Mesquite, Nevada. I was in left field, while Ed was at short. I retrieved a ground ball and threw it to Ed, who was in cut-off position. As the ball traveled toward him, I remember seeing him crumble to the ground. Great, I thought, I threw it so wildly that Ed tripped trying to catch my errant throw. But no, as we all rushed to where Ed lay, it was clear that it was much worse than tripping. He was unconscious when I got there, but shortly thereafter woke up. I remember asking him, "Ed, what's wrong?" He replied, "I don't know, I don't know." He stood up and said, "Let's play," but we insisted that he sit out, and he walked to the bench.

Before we could throw another pitch, Ed collapsed on the bench. I do not believe that he ever regained consciousness, but having a nurse in attendance (Shai – the girl friend of one of our players), I believe he may still have been alive when the ambulance finally arrived to transport him to the local hospital. I assumed it was a heart attack, and with Shea's miraculous efforts, Ed would live to play another day, but it was not to be. The entire team drove to the hospital, and when we arrived, I remember Shai walking out of the emergency room area and told us, "He's gone." I was stunned as I think all of Ed's teammates were. Apparently, it was a pulmonary embolism – not a heart attack – so saving his life would have been nearly impossible.

The medical staff allowed us into the room where we stood around Ed's lifeless body, held hands, and said our good-bye prayers.

The team gathered later to talk about whether we would leave the tournament early and go home, but the feeling was that Ed would have wanted us to play on. He was one of our youngest players at 60 and had recently joined the Diamonds. His attitude and friendliness had already endeared him to the whole team. So we played on in his honor. We kept him in the batting order and placed his glove and uniform at his shortstop position for the first inning of every game we played. The opposing teams avoided hitting a ball to his spot, and they walked him when his turn to bat came up. Such is the fraternity of the senior softball players.

If you ever see the number 19 and initial ER on the sleeve of any Scrap Iron jersey, you know it is one from the team that played with Ed on that fateful day. Larry Alma, the manager of the Diamonds at the time, had Ed's number and initials printed on our shirts as a way of keeping Ed alive in all our memories.

**Update Sammy Cofield,**

The injury happened the bottom of the 1st inning of our first game at the Texas State Championship. Sammy already went deep for us in the top half of the 1st inning. The 3rd hitter for the team we were playing hit a hard two hopper in the 5-6 hole. Sammy who plays SS for us went to make a back hand play and the ball took a bad hop. It actually hit him above the right eye. My wife along with another player's wife took him to the hospital because he had major swelling quickly. They admitted him and stated there was a lot of blood in his eye which was not good. I think they said on a scale of 1 to 5 it was a 6. His wife drove down later that day and drove him back on Saturday morning.

He is a Sheriff at the jail here in the Springs. So he spent the next two weeks evaluating his situation with his family. They decided to remove his eye two weeks later. He initially told me that he was done playing. But I think he has realized his other eye is getting stronger as one and he can do a lot of things. He said he has his retirement letter ready but hasn't hit send yet. I know he'll most likely never play SS or maybe not in the infield again but I think he'll be back.

**UPDATE on the eye!**

On Monday, I got my outer stitch out. The inner did not dissolve yet. So I could not be referred to the Ocularist for the prosthesis. The doctor said come back in 2 week and if he needs, he will remove the stitches and refer me.

I am released for Modified Duty (no contact with inmates). This was to not give them the total impression that I only had 1 eye. By having the prosthesis, it may not be noticeable.

I have not stopped anything. I am driving, helping with son's baseball (yes and even catching balls), getting things done around the house, taking batting practice at the cages and target practice at the shooting range. Just only with 1 eye.

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, texts, and messages. It is really touching to see what love there is out there.

***Some of this information is from last month, I received it after the June edition was published, Sammy plays for Scrap Iron Alliance.***

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**ATTENTION MANAGERS AND COACHES**

**Please send in information about your team, any team news, new players you might pick up, MVP's, results of your last tournament, if this newsletter is to continue it must contain information about us, our teams, really we want to know! This newsletter is designed to bring us all closer together as a club, you know that "bonding thing". So please help make this newsletter great! Deadline is the 22nd of each month.**



## Ask Billy the Bat Boy

*Billy is a volunteer writer for our newsletter he loves to answer your questions, here one:*

Hey Billy,

In Senior Softball, don't you think a walk should count just like a hit in the scorebook? Some coaches seem very confused.

Dear Confused,

I absolutely agree with you, slow pitch softball is all about getting on base. I think it takes a special talent to stand in the batters box and look at four pitches, after all if the pitcher won't throw you anything to hit, why should you swing? It takes a real team player to walk, I have seen batters with three balls and no strikes swing at ball four...why? Your helping your team if your on base, no matter how you got there, with a few exceptions of course. I would like to add this, many players are obsessed with batting average, I think it's more important *when* you hit then how many hits you get. For example, it's possible for you to bat a thousand and score no runs however it's also possible for you to bat five hundred and score several runs! RBI's baby that's where it's at!!! Billy

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## Team news

**The Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 55s** finished 2nd at this year's Rock 'N Reno Challenge Cup. After losing the 2nd bracket game (again), the team came through the loser's bracket, winning 3 games to get to the championship game. The All-Tournament Team selections, as voted by their teammates, were Tim Terrell (OBP of .846), Kim Oliverson (.833), Markis Harper (.815) and Mark Haupt (.810). The team now has a 24-4 record (one 1st and two 2nds) in 3 major SSUSA tournaments this year. The team's next tournament will be in Dalton, GA at the SPA World Championships in July.

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### **Scrap Iron 3n2**

The Reno Tournament had plenty of competition. Scrap Iron 3n2 took 3rd place. We went into the last day in the winners bracket. Unfortunately we lost to SOP 22-18 and then to a hot Nor Cal team 29-21.

Standouts for the team and All Tourney players were Bob Sims, Ed Clark, and Alan Weichmann.

Many others strongly contributed and were close to being all tourney awards with Stan Suichta pitching and contributing with the bat. Bob Darrah and Greg Broeckelman, getting hits when we needed them. All played well or we wouldn't have taken 3rd.

Thanks to all of our cheerleaders and other Scrap Iron teams that came out to cheer us on.

One thing of note is that we lost Greg Broeckelman in the last game as an outfielder and in approximately 20 years of playing together it is the first time I ever saw him sit

out with an injury. Could be because as 70's we are not quite what we used to be. I hope Greg is back 100% soon.

Reno is mid point in the season and we plan to start peaking the rest of the season. I love teams that peak in May, as I plan on us peaking in the later tournaments.

Mike Massong.

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## Rocky Mountain Championship

### Help needed

Bruce Brothis, Scrap Iron's Fundraising Chairman, is in need of volunteers to help run the 3rd Annual Scrap Iron Skills Competition at the Rocky Mountain Championships Tournament, August 24-26 (exact day of the Skills competition has not yet been determined but will be either Friday or Saturday). He needs people to assist with:

Home Run Contest - need 8 volunteers

Precision Hitting Contest - need 8 volunteers

Precision Pitching Contest - need 3 volunteers

Last year the competition raised valuable funds for our Club and based on information from SSUSA, they are expecting more teams this year than last.

Please reach out to Bruce with your name, email and cell number if you would like to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your assistance and participation in this important fundraising event. Bruce can be reached at [bbrothis@allegientbilling.com](mailto:bbrothis@allegientbilling.com) or by cell at [303-994-1685](tel:303-994-1685).

### ***Message from the president's desk or whatever you want to call it.***

We are now into summer and we need to make sure we all take care of ourselves as we continue to play tournaments. Many of our teams have played multiple tournaments and just as a reminder after your 12 players have paid their dues if you have anybody else who has played more than one tournament please have them send in their dues.

Even though this is summertime we need to be thinking about who our team MVP might be as well as anybody who might be eligible for the Hall of Fame or for the Ken Green award which is now known as the Founders Award.

Another point of interest is the Scrap Iron website if you haven't looked please do, Barry Jark has done a great job and feel free to refer anybody asking questions about Scrap Iron such as, who we are and is that really the name of the company, how much scrap iron do you process? The website can help.

Hope everybody has a great and safe summer and we continue to play well and show people why we are the best senior softball club in the United States and quite frankly the world. Andy

Remember, next month it's the ladies turn, please ask the lovely ladies in your life to tell their stories, express their thoughts, and voice their opinions. Please send to [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com) deadline is July 22.

### Scrap Iron Merchandise **Special**



Crew sweatshirt will be \$23 the regular hoodie will be \$26 and the zip hoodie will be \$30. All orders need to be to Jim Casswell by July 16 which is when we will place one order for the entire club and then hopefully they will be available for the Rocky Mountain tournament if not a little sooner. The shirts will come in an assortment of colors as long as you like **gray**. Each player will pay their coach for their order and the coach will write one check to Scrap Iron for the purchase. All sizes are men's sizes. Other

merchandise is available, jackets, warm up parkas, just about anything you can imagine on a special order basis, see you coach or email [firstbase17@me.com](mailto:firstbase17@me.com) **this offer is a special deal act fast if your interested**