



Volume 2

Fall 2019

Issue 8

The off season is fast approaching,

Time on the field is coming to an end as winters cold, snow, and rain are just around the corner. But there's plenty going on within our Scrap Iron Club. Coming up we have our fall managers meeting (see below for details), we have our winter banquet (more on this later), we have another managers meeting in the early spring. Team managers will be looking over and scheduling for travel tournaments as well as adjusting their rosters.

What do you do to stay in shape during the off season? A while ago I was having a physical at my doctors and I showed him some vitamins I had been taking, I asked his opinion of them, he asked me "what do you want them to do," I quickly replied "I want to play softball like I did when I was in my 20's." He said "well then, tell me what are you doing during the off season?" I replied "lying on the couch watching football,". Wrong answer! So Scrap Iron players, send me your off season routine and I'll put it in the winter edition, maybe it will motivate others and we will all have a better team next season.





Billy the Bat Boy,

Hey Billy,

In the perfect world, what would be the best thing for our Scrap Iron Club?

Signed, Idealistic.

Dear Idealistic,

Our club was founded on the principle that, our reason for being is to provide an opportunity for seniors to play softball and compete in local and out of state tournaments. Keeping this in mind, the best thing for our club would be to strive and make sure that any senior ball player who wants to compete in tournament play has a team to play on. Now that brings up some complicated issues, mainly we all want winning teams and not all seniors have the same skills? That's why there are different levels of play and different age groups. From the super studs at the major plus level to the double A players that just love to play. In my opinion the best thing for our club would be to have a team in every age group and every division, with nobody left behind! And never having to play another Scrap Iron team at an out of state tournament.

But Billy, is that's impossible!

No it's possible! It takes everyone of us to work and strive to fulfill our clubs mission. I believe this would really bring our club together. Imagine the 80 year old players helping the 50 year old players find candidates, and every one in between doing the same to make our club greater than ever imagined. Signed, Billy

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall managers meeting, December 7, 2019, 9:00 sharp! all team managers must attend (if you can't attend please send a team representative who is authorized to vote on important matters). Location is Jviation board room (Allan's Office) 900 S. Broadway.

Scrap Iron Annual Banquet, January 25, 2020 11:00AM-3:00PM. At the beautiful Denver Aquarium

MVP awards, Managers deadline for submitting the name of your teams MVP is December 20.

Hall of Fame Nominations deadline for submitting nominations for the Hall of Fame class of 2019 is December 20,

Founders Award Nominations deadline for submitting nominations for our Founders award for 2019 is December 20,

SCRAP IRON HALL OF FAME

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame is to honor and recognize the individuals who have played a major role in the development and growth of Scrap Iron softball.

2. NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. An individual shall be considered for nomination to the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame based on his/her contribution to the Scrap Iron Softball organization. The categories shall be Player, Manager, Special, or Old Timer.
- b. The nominee must have been a member of the Scrap Iron Softball organization at least 5 (five) years.
- c. The nominee for Player, Manager, and Special categories must be at least 60 years old.
- d. A nominee for the Old Timer category must be at least 72 years of age. A nominee who is 72+ may be considered in any of the categories, but only in one category per year.

3. NOMINATIONS

- a. Nominations for the Hall of Fame may be made by any current or former member of the Scrap Iron organization.
- b. A person may only be inducted into the Hall of Fame once.
- c. Nominations must be received by the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame selection committee no later than .

4. SELECTIONS

- a. The Scrap Iron Hall of Fame selection committee will have six voting members approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. The Hall of Fame selection committee will choose the inductees from the active nominations list.
- c. Nominees shall remain on the active list for 2 years. If a nominee has not been inducted into the Hall of Fame within a 2-year period, he/she must be re-nominated.
- d. Each of the six voting members of the Hall of Fame selection committee may select up to four names from the list of candidates.
- e. To be elected into the Hall of Fame, a candidate must be selected on the ballots of at least four of the six voting members.
- f. Only one Old Timer candidate may be elected in any year. There is no limit on the other categories.

If you would like to nominate someone for the Hall of Fame please contact Mike Massong @ mikemassong6@gmail.com

Founders award

This is our clubs highest award given to anyone who has gone the extra mile during the past year. This person has given a lot to make our club even better. We like to recognize this individual with an award that lists the names of our founding fathers, it's like they are also saying thank you for keeping their legacy alive. If you would like to nominate someone you think deserves this award for 2019 please email any executive board member with that persons name along with the reasons you believe they deserve the award.

Executive board, Andy Shapiro andyshapiro@msn.com , John Parisi jddparisi2@comcast.net , Greg Broeckelman gjbroeckelman@earthlink.net, Mark Haupt mlhaupt11@msn.com, JC Moore jcmooorepe4@gmail.com, Jim Casswell jimcasswell@hotmail.com, Art Graebe firstbase17@me.com

2020 Tournament Season Begins in November

This is the time of year when player rosters are reviewed and revised. Some players are moving up to the next age division and team managers need to add the right replacement players. For some teams, the entire core of players are moving up and reforming a new team. With all this activity and movement occurring, players in limbo need to be patient until this all works out. For players currently on a team, stay in contact with your manager to know the team status and roster development.

I have received many names of players looking for a team and have been passing the list on to the existing and new managers forming teams. Interested managers will contact players seeking a team. Players looking for a team, managers looking for players, and managers overstaffed with players and want to help them find another team, please contact me. I am here to help all concerned.

John Parisi

Scrap Iron Vice President and New Player Coordinator

Jdparisi2@comcast.net

[307-286-1936](tel:307-286-1936) (mobile)

Donations

The first 6 months total collected from our grocery store program through King Soopers \$3,096.00 the third quarters report has not been received yet.

Rocky Mountain tournament skills competition brought in \$850.00 (compared to \$745.00).

The Smile Amazon program has brought in \$220.45 as of August 31.

A message from your treasurer

The new tax law will substantially increase the standard deduction and many of our members will not be itemizing deductions on their tax returns this year. Consequently, your charitable donations may not have as great a tax benefit. For those members in their 70's (including inherited IRA's even if the recipient is under 70 ½) faced with required minimum distribution (RMD) from retirement accounts, one way to lessen the tax impact is to make RMD payments payable directly to a charitable organization. Scrap Iron Softball Club is an eligible charitable organization.

The check can be for the full amount or any portion of the RMD, but must be made payable to the non-profit (as designated by IRS) directly. It can be mailed or forwarded to the following:

Scrap Iron Softball Club

Attn: Jim Casswell

PO Box 260699

Lakewood, CO 80226

A confirmation of the donation will be sent for all contributions greater than \$250.00 for your tax records.

Of course, everyone should consult their tax and/or financial advisor to see if this is something that works for them.

Senior Softball By Steve Coble

I was eating lunch at the Brewery Bar with Irv Brown in 1996. We chatted about the old days of high school sports. Later on he mentioned my name on his radio show as he often did whenever he encountered a former athlete. "Ran into Steve Coble at lunch today, he played baseball at St. Francis de Sales High School, for Wendy Strohauer back in the 60's" Irv never forgot a face. About an hour later I get a call from Bob Haberkorn, an old high school teammate. He said I heard your name on the radio! He asks if I'm still playing ball. I said "Bob, I'm 50 years old, nobody plays ball at 50." Bob says he is coaching a team of fifty and over players at Lockheed Martin and to come on out for a tryout.

I thought about it for a while, decided to give it a try. I showed up with a borrowed bat and glove and started shagging fly balls. I had a hell of a time judging those balls but eventually started to get the hang of it. Then it happened, I pulled my left hammie, not bad but not enough to discourage me. Next practice I show up and pull my right hamstring, now I'm starting to get frustrated. I couldn't run, couldn't throw, and worst of all I couldn't hit that underhand soft toss. I persevered and made the team. That was the beginning of a 24 year romance with senior softball. We had a fairly good team with Bob Haberkorn and Alan Wiechmann, Chris Christofferson, Dick Carlson, Gregg Near, and others that memory fails me now. We would usually set around between games with the wives and friends from other teams, Bob and Marilyn Wiltgens, Lee and Sandy Courkamp, Kenny Green, Bob Gryzmala. They were playing for a team with the funny name Scrap Iron and talking about a travel team that had recently won a national tournament. I couldn't believe it, playing softball and traveling! Imagine that! A team named Scrap Iron that travels to play ball.

That Scrap Iron team had it's beginning in 1992. Twelve years later in 2004 the club was officially formed with seven teams. Thanks to those early pioneers that loved the game enough, and had the foresight to start a club that is well known and respected around this great country.

Stan Suichta's National Hall of Fame Induction at the Rocky Mountain tournament in Aurora, Colorado. Congratulations Stan



Team news

The 65's Scrap Iron Diamonds played in the Las Vegas Worlds tournament, we were in every game, easily won our first game and lost the next 4 games all being decided in the 7th inning, very close, good competition. Our MVP medal was awarded to Tom Betchel for outstanding fielding at second base and tremendous hitting with many of those hits at key times. Our team is excited about our next tournament in November, we have elected to go to the Winter Worlds in Fort Meyers, Florida instead of the usual Phoenix tournament. We are sad to loose Jim Casswell, Norm Friedman, and Mike Anderson who are moving up to the 70's. Best Wishes to you guys your presence on our team will be greatly missed. We are proud and happy to be picking up Gary Jones, Lupe Pena, and Rob Minner for our 2020 season.

Scrap Iron Xplosion. Team Xplosion "Xplodes"

For the last 2 years our motto has been "it is time to Xplode". No better time than now. In Aurora, we finished 2nd out of 9 teams losing to Big Daddy's Donuts from Missouri twice. The second loss was in the championship game and it was a classic at 35-34 in 10 innings. Battling injuries the team played well we just couldn't beat one very good team. The all-tourney players were Dan Silvey, Kevin Flynn, Jim Portz, and Dave Schultz.

At the Worlds in Vegas, we were still battling many injuries but played well winning our first 3 bracket games. We lost our 4th bracket game to DT Express out of Tennessee which kicked us to the losers bracket on Sunday morning. At that point, in order to win the tournament, we would have to win 5 straight games. I told our team that is exactly what we were going to do. After 3 easy wins, we found ourselves in the Championship game against DT Express. Time for revenge. We trailed by 7 but caught them in the 7th to tie then won it in the 8th inning. A classic game. Then, in the "if" game, with our energy levels getting low, we just couldn't get the big hit when we needed it. We lost by 7 to finish in 2nd place out of 34 teams. It was a great run going 8-3 overall with 5 consecutive games on Sunday. We played those 5 games in over 9 hours without a break, starting by fighting the morning sun and ending under the lights. All tournament players were Dan Silvey, Randy Kunkel, John Bellatti, and Dave Schultz. Superman Schultz was the team MVP.



Team Xplosion – 2019 60 AAA World Runners Up.
Back row, L to R: John Bellatti, Jim Portz, Randy Kunkel, Dave Schultz, Don Difiore, Dan Silvey, Gregg Pearson, Dave Masciotro, Arlis Bader, Kevin Flynn.
Front row, L to R: Ed Dilley, Barry Jark, Moo Richardson, and Carl Markey. Not pictured: Garry "Scoop" Peterson.

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal (60AAA) participated in the 2019 World Masters in Las Vegas and finished a respectable 8th out of 34 teams. Going 1 and 1 in seeding games, Metal won their first 2 bracket games before losing to the eventual bracket winner, DT Express (who they had defeated in pool play!). There were many defensive and offensive standouts but Mark Gembarowski was team MVP hitting a real nice .750 and slugging 1.00. Defensively, Eddie Buonaiuto had a diving snag of a line drive and over the shoulder catch at short, both worthy of a SportsCenter highlight reel. Metal is looking forward to an even better 2020 season and will be attending the TOC this coming February in Florida. As a sidenote, the entire Heavy Metal team and most members of Scrap Iron Xplosion drove over to Arroyo Grande to support the Scrap Iron Rockies in their National Championship game.

Scrap Iron Legends We played in the the LVSSA/SSUSA World Tournament in Vegas. We had our highs and our lows and ended up in the middle of the pack of a 16 team bracket.

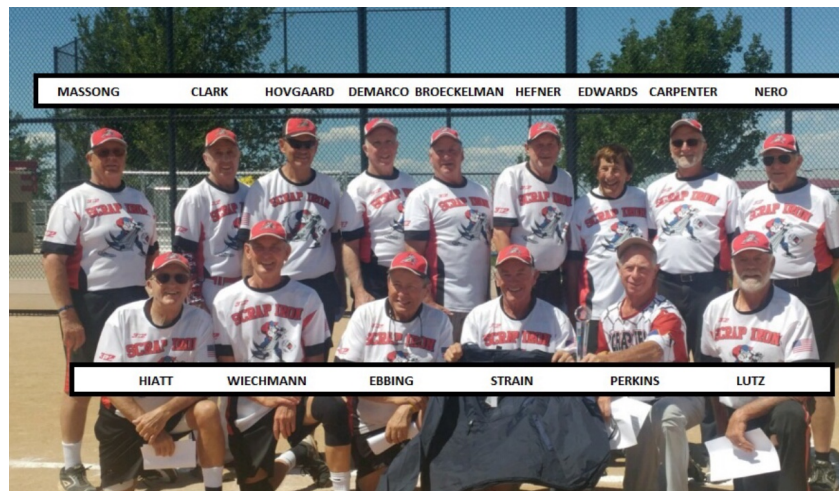
High light was beating the Minnesota Major Plus team outright without the 5 runs they gave us.

Our low points were too many errors and leaving runners on base. Winner of the tournament was the NORCAL Styxx who we finished 2nd to in the Western Nationals. Seb Muzio was our MVP and he batted well over 800 for the tournament.

Next year for 2020 we have players moving up to 75 teams. Without getting players to move up to a Major Team we are disbanding the team. Most of our remaining players are going to play on 70 AAA teams.

It has been a good run for our group of players as we have won 3 World Tournaments, 4 Western Regional tournaments, 2 National Championships, and 1 Triple Grand Slam. Bill Nero was the coach for most of the tournaments.

I will be retiring from travel softball next year and hope all the best to the Scrap Iron teams and programs. Mike Massong, team manager



Scrap Iron Mile High Team

It's been a busy couple of months for team Mile High. We left the comfort and tranquility of the 5280 City and ventured to the low lands of Kansas City for the KC Classic. The heat was hot and the humidity was unbearable as the Good Guys went 1-3 on Saturday, the opening day. We returned to the fields on Sunday just as the monsoon season arrived in KC. The rain was fierce and started to flood the field but luckily we had Life Preserver to rescue Doug in the mire of the shortstop position and lost a heart breaker to the KC Renegades to exit the tournament.

Next up was Aurora. Unfortunately we didn't protect the home field as well as we should have. The Good Guys suffered back to back loses on Friday and drowned our sorrows in an adult beverage. With the team reenergized with the beautiful Saturday morning sunshine we went 2-1 beating a hearty bunch of Silver bullets from Omaha, and taking one from a spirited Kenn's Paint team from Colorado Springs. At least we captured the Colorado 55 AAA bragging rights. Sunday was a taste of the bitter/sweet life of softball, as we blew a 4 run lead in the bottom of the 7th. We left the ASP fields going 2-4, but knew the Worlds tournament was just around the corner.

We love Sin City. Sadly the glitter and glitz of the casino didn't carry over to the field as hurricane force winds descended on the mighty Mile High team. Small dogs and toupees took cover from the wind as the team battled to a 1-1 record on the 1st day. Day 2 was set for the Mile High team to make a run through the winners bracket, it's with deep regret that we blew a 5 lead in the 7th inning of our second game to find the loser bracket. The third day we decided to start sending teams home from their Las Vegas vacations. The reality is that we found a team from St Louis willing to go home, however the team from Maui decided they wanted to extend their time on the mainland and soundly defeated the good guys 26-12, thus ending the tournament with a 3-3 record.

The 2019 Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 55s Season Recap

By Mark Haupt, Manager

The 2019 season began with a bang. After little time to practice outside during the late winter and early spring, due to the poor weather, the Rocky Mountain Thunder 55s won their opening tournament of the year in the 11-team Spring Worlds tournament in Bullhead City, AZ in March with a 5-0 record in bracket play. That was followed by a disappointing showing in the 17-team Southwest Championships in April in Las Vegas, NV with a 2-2 record in bracket play.

The team then decided to try some new tournaments in the middle of the year. Instead of going to play the usual tournaments in Reno, NV (SSUSA) and Dalton, GA (SPA), the team voted to play a couple of ISSA tournaments. This didn't go well. Traveling to Knoxville, TN in June to play in the 11-team ISSA Great Smoky Mountain Senior Classic resulted in only 1 game being played, and won, before rain caused cancellation of the rest of the tournament. The team then signed up for the 2019 ISSA Western Michigan National Invitational in Grand Rapids, MI in early August. But when the tournament only drew 2 other 55 Major teams, the team decided to withdraw.

The Rocky Mountain Thunder then competed in the SSUSA 6-team Rocky Mountain Championships in Aurora, CO in late August. After losing the first bracket game, the team rallied to win 4 straight games before losing to a very good Rock N Legends team

from Texas in the first championship game in the bottom of the 8th inning on a walk-off homerun. The team's trip to Worlds this year in Las Vegas, NV was highlighted by getting to play against Jose Canseco in a round robin game. And when that is the highlight of the entire tournament, the team obviously didn't play well going 2-3 in bracket play.

Overall, one tournament championship and a second place finish in 4 major tournaments isn't bad, but not up to Rocky Mountain Thunder standards. Being an older 55 Major team that was hampered with more injuries than usual played a role. The team also didn't play in as many tournaments as normal due to disappointing ISSA tournament planning and execution. Future planning will need to take into greater account the risks of traveling east to play tournament ball. Not only is it typically more expensive, but there are usually fewer teams to play and the weather is major negative factor.

After Worlds, the team voted for their Most Valuable Player for the year and Tommie Edwards was selected. He will be recognized at the annual Scrap Iron banquet next January with a plaque. Congratulations Tommie! The team also thanks Dave Fortier and Mark Troxel for assisting in managing this year's team. Thank you!

Next year's plans are to take most of the 60 year olds up to build a new 60 Major team. The remaining players will re-build a very good 55 Major team. Both teams will have a few holes to fill. If you're interested in playing on either team, don't hesitate to contact Dave Fortier (55 Major - dflifetime@gmail.com) or Mark Haupt (60 Major - mlhaupt11@msn.com) to inquire about potential openings.

Scrap Iron 5280, 2019 was an up and down season for the Scrap Iron 5280' 65 AAA team. We went into the season knowing that half of us were eligible to move up to 70s next year so to say we were aging out is an understatement. Despite that we were pretty successful. We finished 5th at the Winter Worlds in Phoenix and Spring Worlds in Mesquite out of 17 teams. In Vegas at the Southwest Championships we finished 6 out of 16 teams. In Reno we finished 3rd out of 17 teams. Curt Dicke, Mick Roemer and George Wise were our All Tournament Players. We started to show our age and a midsummer slump at the Western Nationals in Sacramento finishing 6th. At the Rocky Mountain Championships in Aurora we perked back up and took 3rd again out of 10 teams. By the last game half the lineup needed a runner. Mike Boulrier, Randy Huls and Mark Soloway were our All Tournament Players. We weren't quite healed for the World Masters Championship in Vegas finishing way down in the biggest division of 27 teams. George Wise was our MVP batting .875 with a slugging percentage of 1.750.

The Worlds were the last tournament for this group of players and it was celebrated nicely when "Team Mom" Kathy Huls presented every player with a personalized gift. Who knew she knew us so well after 3 years. As coach, I told the team what an honor it was to play with such a great group of men. We won and lost together supporting each other throughout several seasons.

That's what makes senior softball so great and it was exemplified by 5280'. Jerry Bost, Mike Boulrier, Wayne Bradley, Randy Huls, Art Knudson, Hal Meyer, Mark Soloway and I will try to continue the legacy with the 70's edition of 5280' next year. We will be joined by seven great ball players and men. We will keep a space open for the "kids" Curt Dicke, Russ Johnson, Gary

Jones, Ken Mason, Lupe Pena, Mick Roemer, and George Wise when we can all be together again as 5280'. We'll leave a light on! Terry Goodrich

In closing, thank you to all the teams above who shared what's going on with your team. If your team is not recognized above please send in some news and I'll be sure to have it in our next newsletter. Trust me, we all really do care!

One last request, any member is more than welcome to send in articles for our newsletter, please send in some of your favorite memories from the ball field, or tell us why you love playing senior softball, and of course don't forget Billy the Bat Boy, he loves to hear from you.