



Hang in there, spring is coming



We are approximately 6 weeks until the Spring Worlds tournament in Mesquite, approximately 5 weeks until the Fun League starts at Vanderbilt, our Saturday league cranks up April 20, at Arvada Youth Memorial Fields, and the Wednesday league starts up in middle April also. Between now and then I'm sure there will be numerous great days for some BP. So hang in there it's almost here!

A Message from our president, Andy

On behalf of the Executive Board I would like to congratulate the Team MVPs, the Hall of Fame inductees as well as the Founder Award winners and thank everyone who attended the Banquet. Art Graebe should be recognized for his suggestion to have a day time event and Bruce Brothis for finding the venue etc... lots of positive feedback on both choices. There were also many great raffle items and participation by everybody. As a follow up to those who attended I will try to get out a Survey Monkey to see what input you have about the banquet. All and all it seemed like everyone had a good time!

From a personal perspective as your MC, the event went pretty smoothly with some very great moments and heartfelt remembrances of our members. If you have any suggestions for making the flow better or faster please let me know...

The 2019 season approaches quickly and as your teams plan for another successful season please keep in mind that the budget will not be set until the Coaches meeting scheduled for February 16th at 9 AM at 900 Broadway in Denver all are welcome but remember each team only gets 1 vote....



Billy the Bat Boy

Billy comments this month comes with the sad news of the passing of our friend Mark Rouch this last month. Mark was a frequent contributor of Billy's comments, his wit and humor was greatly appreciated and he will be missed. Mark was one of those guys you liked the moment you met him. He was a true gentle giant. All I remember was his tremendous attitude every time we played ball together. There will always be an empty spot on the field and in our dugout on Wednesdays, Mark, you will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family, we will play ball together again someday! With Love Billy

Welcome Hal Meyer to the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame class of 2018. Unfortunately Hal was not able to make the banquet to receive this honor in person due to knee surgery a few days prior to the banquet. Hal, we missed you, take Care and recover quickly!



I have been part of Scrap Iron for over 15 years. Scrap Iron has afforded me the opportunity to continue playing, at a very high level, the game that I probably started playing 68 years ago (I think that I should be better by now). I have been fortunate to have many great teammates who encouraged me to keep learning. My coaches Bart Prieve and Terry Goodrich have challenged me to play multiple positions that filled "team" needs; I'm a better person for their efforts. Being inducted into the Scrap Iron Hall of Fame is a Great Honor! I appreciate the leadership, the camaraderie, the friendships and the Hearts of Scrap Iron members. THANK YOU to Scrap Iron for

supporting the needs of those in the community. THANK YOU to the present and past Scrap Iron leaders and volunteers who make everything happen. I'll be back as soon as I can fix these two little things...

Hal Meyer
Scrap Iron Hall of Fame
Class of 2018.

Spotlight on Scrap Iron Alliance

The team was formed in 2016 as Twisters. A team that was built by player/coach John Karagiannes. They won the Rocky Mountain Championship in their first year. The team is primarily made up of military veterans. Half of the team is retired military and there are a few others that served their country. In 2018 the team went in a different direction and became part of the Scrap Iron family. We chose the name Alliance because of our strong military background. Karagiannes primarily runs the team. Micah Ebersole was basically his right hand man for many years but has moved on to play Over 55's. Sammy Cofield fills the coaching void when John isn't around. Like any team we rely on our veteran leadership. Scott Graham, Jeff Cox, Sammy Cofield, and midseason pickup Mike Wilmer lead by example. Four players with a lot of heart.



Having Scott and Mike on the team kept me in line said Karagiannes. They provide a lot of savvy and insight on things I may overlook. When the team needs comical relief it is usually provided by Tommy "Donuts" Ligotti. Tommy was a midseason addition when we lost Sammy for two months due to injury. It didn't take long for him to

become a big hit, no pun intended, with his new teammates. Once you get past his New York accent he's a lot of fun to have around. Now if you are looking for your next politician look no further than Ed Perez. Ed will spend most of the game getting to know the opposition. If he's on base he'll be talking with the infielders or vice versa when he is in the infield. All kidding aside one of the nicest guys on the team.

When it comes time to find a good place to eat that's Phil Lambert's expertise. He will certainly lead the way. He definitely loves his food and that of any others that can't finish their plates. He proved that in Lees Summit last year. He also likes birthday celebrations like at Tony Roma's last year in Vegas.

The team benefits from the talent of Rob Maranto and team MVP Will Connor. Two players that can compete with anyone defensively, at the plate, and their all-around game is second to none. The best part of coaching this team is how well that everyone gets along. The camaraderie we have is amazing and makes playing ball at our age very enjoyable. That doesn't only apply to the players but the wives and families as well. Without their support we wouldn't function, especially on the road trips.

Other returning players are Tim Roeland, John Maldonado, Gary Bowen, Kevin Ciesla, Steve "Sully" Sullivan, Charles "Moose" Martinez, and Mike Ramirez, guys that are willing to sacrifice personal goals to make this team better. That's what makes this team go, just like a lot of us did during our military career.

This year we are adding three solid players, Sean Moye, “Big” Tony Jones, and Sean Newton. They will be taking the place of the four players that moved up to play Over 55 this year. “I’m really excited to be adding these players to the team” said Karagiannes. I’m still trying to figure out where everyone hits in this talented line-up. I guess that’s a good problem to have right? The guys are looking forward to another fun and successful season. We can’t wait until Bullhead which is our first SSUSA tournament of the season. Good luck to all the teams that represent Scrap Iron.

Scrap Iron Beams By: “J. C.” Moore, Manager

The Scrap Iron Beams ended the last season at the World Masters Championships in Las Vegas on somewhat of a sour note because we had two players who weren’t able to come at the last minute, and once the tournament started, we lost two more players to unexpected injuries during the very first game. As a result, we ended up the round robin play with a 1-3 record, with two close losses, which could have possibly been wins if we had had our full complement of players. What added to the poor feeling was Terry Hennessy’s insistence at the manager’s meeting that our age group play no more than two games per day, which mandated that the bracket play be just single-elimination. Being seeded at the bottom of our five-team pool did give us an opportunity to play another team with a 1-3 record; we lost 16-8 to what turned out to be the eventual winner of the tournament, California Connection, who obviously got “hot” after they beat us. We were eliminated at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, the third day of this four-day tournament, as well another team, and by 12:30, six of the ten teams in our 75+ major age group were gone. I feel that the way we lost and the awful way SSUSA put together this tournament caused all of our players to quickly take off without a team photo or saying goodbye. Even I was bummed out to where I did not feel motivated to write anything for the Scrap Iron newsletter that was published a couple weeks after this tournament.

We played in the Winter World Championships in Phoenix with six new players, and we were minus four of our best offensive and defensive players due to three of these players having wives who were injured as a result of surgeries or falls. (As players get older, the possibility of their wives and family members having issues that prevent them from attending tournaments definitely increases.) We played in five games and did not win a single one. We did lose a couple games by one or two runs, but we only hit 0.547 as a team. Having a better defense and hitting better would have certainly made a difference. Again, everyone seemed to be bummed out to where they immediately took off.

We will be playing in the Winter Classic tournament in Bullhead City January 15 – 17 with a stronger lineup. We will have most of our better players who were with us all of last year, and we will have three new very good players who will be just 74 next year. We will not have three players who decided to quit our team within a week after the Phoenix tournament. If we hit as well as we have in the past, we will definitely have a much better tournament. We plan to play in six tournaments in 2019 before the big one in Las Vegas next September.

What is the right number?

There is always a debate about how many players a team should take to a tournament. I would like to share my opinion and am looking for feedback. What is yours?

The fewer players a team takes, the higher the risk. Players get injured, and players wear down. They get tired. On the other hand, the fewer players a team takes, the more playing time everyone gets. Where is the balance?

I feel very strongly that less is better. My number is 12 players, with 13 for the large tournaments like the Vegas Worlds where you can play 10 to 12 games. No more than that. I will even take 11 players if necessary. Here is my reasoning.

When you live in Colorado, every tournament (except Aurora of course) is at least 700 miles away. We do not have the advantage of traveling short distance, like many California teams do, to play. For us travel is more expensive and more time consuming. So nobody wants to travel and sit the bench.

The more players a team has, the more they compete for playing time. That means they “press”. They do not play as well. And when a team has fewer players, they relax, as they are not looking over their shoulder. They play better.

I see teams with 15, 16, or 17 guys in the dugout and I think to myself “Man would I hate to coach that team”. How does one keep that many guys (and let’s not forget the wives!) happy?

So I try to keep the big picture in mind. Yes I want to win every tournament and be competitive. But all of the tournaments that we play throughout the year are just a primer for the Vegas Worlds. That is the ultimate prize. My goal at the beginning of the year is to make sure we have good team chemistry, that everyone comes together as a team, and most importantly that we maintain that chemistry throughout the year. Sitting the bench leads to disgruntled players which can quickly ruin team chemistry.

When you are playing on Sunday afternoon with only 12 guys they are tired. But it is a "happy" tired.

Coaches, what is your number?

Barry Jark
Xplosion

News:



Our grocery card program King Soopers & Safeway total contribution for 2018 was \$6,409.00 compared to \$5,781.00 in 2017. It's up, but we can do better! We receive 5% of all purchases at these grocery stores when you use the card. To get a card please see your team manager or contact Jim Caswell, jimcasswell@hotmail.com.



Amazon contributes one half percent of all your purchases when you use Smile Amazon whenever you order from them. Sign up is very easy. In 2018 our club received \$123.70. Not a lot but every little bit helps!

Super bowl pool

A special thanks to John Karagiannes from Scrap Iron Alliance, John drew up a pool chart with 100 squares he sold each square for \$20.00 each. This grossed \$2,000.00 with \$1,000.00 going to winners and \$1,000.00 going to our club. What a great idea, thank you John for the work you put into this. Thank you to all of you who purchased squares.

Remember team managers

Our spring managers meeting will be held February 16, at the usual location (Alan's office) at 9:00 am. This is a very important meeting, we will be confirming teams and setting our team budgets. If you, the team manager, can't make it be sure to send a team representative who can speak for you.

Banquet

Our annual Scrap Iron banquet was held last month on the 26th at the Denver Aquarium, what a great venue. The room held 200 and our unofficial total was 181 + or - . I believe this was one of the best turnouts in our clubs history.

Our most prestigious award "The Founders award" was given to Terry Goodrich for his dedicated and faithful service to our club for many years as Vice President. His contributions has made our club better. Knowing Terry he's not done, he loves our club and has lots more to offer. Congratulations Terry!

The following were inducted into our Hall of Fame

RON MAXWELL - OLD TIMERS
MARK HAUPT - PLAYER
RANDY KUNKEL - PLAYER
HAL MEYER - PLAYER
DAVE SCHULTZ - PLAYER
DAN SILVEY - PLAYER

The following were awarded "MVP" plaques by their teams

Scrap Iron Alliance

William J. Connor, a special "SAMMY AWARD" was presented to Samuel Cofield Jr.

Scrap Iron Elite

Jeff Hutchinson

Scrap Iron Colorado Home Fitness

Chip Hunnings & Mike Gurnee

Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 55

Steve Antonczyk.

Scrap Iron 60's Rockies

Jose Valiente

Scrap Iron Mile high

Jeff Wood & Doug Klimas

Scrap Iron Heavy Metal

Bruce Brothis

Scrap Iron High Octane

Randy Kunkel

Scrap Iron XPlosion

Dan Silvey & Barry Jark, a special recognition from the team to coach Moo Richardson

Scrap Iron 5280

Randy Huls.

Scrap Iron Diamonds

Art Graebe

Scrap Iron Still Kickin

Gary Katz

Scrap Iron Reds

Larry Ouret

Scrap Iron 3N2

"SKIP" WALKER MVP & "MIP" ORVILLE STRAIN

Scrap Iron Beams 75's

Jim Brown

Scrap Iron 75's Legacy

Ron Howard

Scrap Iron 80's Gray Berets

Fred Mattos

