



Sometimes it's not all about Softball

(Mike Gurnee celebrates a big win, hopefully he doesn't have another game to play)



Good News

Now using your King Soopers card (Kroger card) just got easier. Instead of carrying and loading a gift card now all you need is your King Soopers (Kroger) rewards card. They have linked our Scrap Iron club to the rewards card. All you need to do is go on line and register your existing rewards card, this is a one time thing. Follow the instructions below and your set. I have talked to several who have done this and it's real simple. If you don't have a rewards card they are available at the customer service desk inside the store, they are free.

King Soopers has announced a revised program for Scrap Iron to receive benefits. In most ways, this new program should be more convenient to use than the current Gift Card. For those already using the Gift Card, the value on the Card will remain after April 1 when the new program goes into effect; but, recharges AFTER March 31 will not benefit Scrap Iron — so recharge your card before April 1, use it up any time, and discard it when it reaches \$0.

Now, and this is very important, you need to enroll in the new program by logging onto the King Soopers site. This is needed if you had a Gift Card or not. If you already have an online account, just login. If you don't have an online account, you need to sign up for one. You will need to use your King Soopers rewards card (or Frys VIP card) number OR your alternate id (like probably your phone number).

Open website KingSoopers.com and sign in.

On top ribbon, click Savings&Rewards, then choose King [Soopers](#) Community Rewards

Click Enroll Now

In the Search box, type in Scrap Iron Softball Club and click Enroll

Out of state participants, must choose a Colorado Store in their MY ACCOUNT page set up in the King Soopers website BEFORE taking the steps to enroll in the King Soopers Community Rewards selection. If they have an out of state store in their account set up, the search engine will not find Scrap Iron Softball Club because they will be searching in the state designated in the account page set up. The individual would need to go to My Account page after signing in to edit the store location and then follow the steps beginning with "click Savings&Rewards "

Then you will be able to enroll: find and enroll in the program for Scrap Iron.

This is a one-time enrollment. Every time you make a purchase from then on using your Rewards number or card, Scrap Iron will benefit. You don't have to do anything more.



Bat Boy Billy

Dear Billy & Barry, RE: What is the Right Number?

By Mark Haupt, Manager, Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 55s - Major

Often times in managing senior softball teams I've seen it come down to "would you rather play or would you rather win"? Every player would rather do both, but that isn't usually realistic (aging, injuries and poor performances happen). However, it is realistic to expect to have fun. So, given that, I like it when my teams start the year with more players on the roster (14-16) than less (10-12). I'll try to explain... Any time I've started a season with 12 or 13 players on the roster, I've needed to pick up 2 or 3 players during the year to put a full team together for any given tournament. So we always ended up needing 15 to 16, or even up to 18 players, for any given year. Trying to find 2 or 3 good to great players (i.e., talented at a position of need, with good character and willing to pay to travel) during the year to play in a tournament or two is not easy (or fun for the manager). So why not start out the season with 16 excellent players? I think that is the perfect number, even if everyone shows up. To me, it's best when everyone shows up, as long as you have the right players (great hitters, flexible on defense and support each other).

My experience has also been that, when only bringing 10-11 players to a tournament, if players get injured or aren't performing well, it is a disservice to the remaining players who have to pick up the slack, as they might be hurting, tired and/or struggling. So why take the risk? I wouldn't take a team to a tournament with less than 12 players.

In 2018 we started the year with 16 players. We didn't have to pick up anyone during the year as most or all players showed up for every tournament. The results speak for themselves: We made it to the championship game in 5 of the 6 major travel tournaments we played in and won 3 of those tournaments, including our first win at SPA Worlds!

How did that happen? I can't stress it enough, it starts and ends with the right players. Our players were willing to sit 1 of every 4 or 5 games to rest, no matter who they are. Resting allowed them to play better overall and reduced chances of injury. When we start a tournament with 16 players, 4 players start out sitting every game. But the guys that are sitting are also keeping the scorebook, coaching bases, running for someone, helping me coach, shagging HR balls and/or pinch-hitting late in games. They are all staying in the game, but in different ways. So by Sunday, we are typically the most rested and best prepared team left in the tournament.

I know there are examples of teams with 10, 11 or 12 players winning tournaments. But I also know that when I watch the teams that typically make it to championship games, they usually have 4-6 guys sitting on the bench when their team is in the field. A classic example I watched was J&J's Sports from Iowa in the 2017 SSUSA World tournament in the 55+ Major division. They lost their first two bracket games, but ended up finishing 2nd (out of 30 teams) in that tournament! They had at least 18 players on that team.

Talk about fun!

Thanks, Mark

Team Managers

Submitted by an anonymous member

We all know them... the player who runs the team, the player who calls to see if you can make the game, the babysitter, and the one who makes the decisions on how we all play (good or bad), the player who fills the gap on the money collected. A good friend, the one who sits himself more than he should to make sure everyone gets a fair amount of playing time. He is always there to lean on and has the best shoulder to cry on. His weekly job is the same week after week, he spends an unbelievable amount of time over the winter studying the upcoming tournaments, than spends hours keeping it all together and communicating to the players. He puts out tournament schedules months in advance and than emails everyone to keep them updated. All this is often unappreciated, because once in the dugout he has to listen to someone whimper because you moved them down in the lineup or you just want to try a different strategy. His job is one that NO BODY WANTS! When the team looses, he blames himself and than the second guessing begins... what if I did this instead of... The absolute worse thing he hears is "I am leaving to go play on _____'s team, this team is not good enough to compete".

For those of you who loved our Wood Bat tournament here's some information I got while in Mesquite. The 65 Diamonds are thinking of going. If you would like more information contact me (Art) firstbase17@me.com McCall Idaho is a beautiful resort town approximately 2 hours North of Boise.



September 6-8, 2019

12th Annual McCall Senior Classic

Wood Bat Tournament
Slow-Pitch Softball
Players 60+

Friday Night BBC
Ponderosa
State Park
\$5 per person

Early Bird \$250 (until July 31)
Regular Fee \$275 (Aug 1-23)
Late Registration \$300 (Aug 24-30)

Where: Gold Glove Park, Fairway Dr. McCall

Register online or send check to:
City of McCall 216 E. Park St. McCall, ID 86838

For More Details call Tara @ 208-634-8968

WWW.MCCALLREC.COM

City of McCall
IDAHO

Team News

The 65 Scrap Iron Diamonds finally got to shake off the winter rust and play some ball in Mesquite, the weather was perfect the fields were in awesome shape, and I couldn't be prouder of my teammates. Coming off a three and a half month off season break we played well, much better than any of us expected. Drawing a Southern California team our first game we fought a good fight loosing by 2 runs in the seventh 20-18. Than our second game, of course was a another Southern California team, and again another great battle loosing again by 4 runs in the seventh. Our third game that day we showed that we are not in softball shape yet, playing a fairly lazy game against our good buddies Scrap Iron 5280. I don't know why they were not as tired as us because they handily beat us. Saturday morning 8 AM. We were back at it this time against an Idaho team that consisted of an entire team of the young guys who couldn't be a day over 65, however we hung in there losing by 5 runs. Now the fun begins, we play the Southern California Warrior's, our fifth game, and what a great game, 9 innings and we pull out a win 34-30. Our Colorado team showed those California guys it always doesn't matter if you play year round or not, we came to play and have fun...we accomplished both.

The Scrap Iron Beams played a full round robin at the Spring World Championships in Mesquite March 19-21. We ended up in third place with a 4 - 2 record, losing only to the first and second place teams. We played as good as we could except for one game. We seemed to be rusty in the beginning because very few of us had had the opportunity to practice or play due to the wet weather throughout Colorado, California, Utah, and Arizona. Our three all-tournament players were Tom Imming, James Contreras, and Dick Bunde.

Scrap Iron Rocky Mountain Thunder 55s won the 55 Major division of the 2019 SSUSA's Spring World Championships in Bullhead City, Arizona March 22 - 24, 2019. The 55 Major bracket had 11 teams competing from Arizona, California, Colorado, Utah and Oregon. This is back-to-back championships for the Thunder who also won this tournament last year in St. George, Utah.

Leading the way in hitting was Chris McTigue, who hit over .800 with several homeruns. 5 other players hit over .700 for the weekend. The team also played great defensively, especially given that they had no chance to practice outdoors before the tournament and most of the other teams did.

All-Tournament Team members, as voted by their teammates, included: Chris McTigue, Steve Antonczyk, Brad Edginton, Bruce Lostroh and Tommie Edwards. The team's next tournament will be in the 2019 LVSSA/SSUSA Southwest Championships in Las Vegas, NV held in late April.

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**No other team news reported **



A tribute to one of our Scrap Iron club founders Bob Wiltgen

By now most all of you have heard the sad news of losing Bob to a heart attack two weeks ago. Bob played a very important part in the organization of our club. Bob was a very good ball player, a great leader, and a terrific person, if you knew Bob you would agree, if you didn't know Bob it was your loss. I love this picture of Bob with his new little friend, I remember the day he got this puppy he was like a little kid on Christmas morning combined with the excitement of being a new dad. Bob was a dear friend of mine, our friendship goes way back to when he was the head umpire for the City of Loveland. His property management company did business with my business and immediately we became friends. Bob was responsible for me getting into the Scrap Iron club, in fact, when my team won our very first tournament Bob was the first person I called. I can imagine right now Bob up in heaven organizing a softball program for us all to enjoy someday...Marilyn, Carolyn & I send our thoughts, prayers, and love. Art Graebe

When Rocket & I started playing senior softball, Bob was our official senior softball mentor. He called us his kids and when we called him Dad, the smile on his face was priceless. He was a fierce competitor and great leader. He will be missed!
Rick (Bert) Hertzke

Bob was a quintessential teammate, always encouraging, always had a quick smile and a warm heart. He was our brother by a different mother. I miss him and hope to see him on the Diamond in the sky
Stacy Michaels

I had just started playing senior Softball on a Saturday team when I meet Bob. I was still in my early 50's but remember thinking how well this then "older" guy was playing infield. I commented on this play after he almost got me going to second on an impossible stop. He thanked me and started calling me "youngster". Even as we got older he always made sure to go out of his way to see how this "youngster" was doing.
Gary Jones

I met Bob 20 years ago when I started playing Sat league softball and was on his team. Our friendship grew out of every time he got a hit, I got to be his sub runner. We often joked about we were "Hit and Run". I don't ever remember Bob without a smile on his face and a kind word to say.
Rob Minner

I knew Bob as a senior softball player but his positive attitude and welcoming personality are the traits that I remember along with his infectious smile.
William Shaffer

I was lucky to be part of the second/shortstop duo on many of the world championship teams we played on. Bob was not only a great player but also a great teammate
Bill Brown

Bob and I and Roger Weidelman were close to the same age so we traveled to many of our games together either playing on the same team or against each other. We had a lot of time to talk softball or any world events to and from Denver, Longmont and Colorado Springs or on road trips to many parts of the country. With Ken Green, Murl Skalla, Dennis Lutz, Phil Field, and many other early Scrap Iron members , I'm sure we would all be in awe of what an organization it has become today. Thanks Bob and all our Scrap Iron friends for all the great memories.....Arlen Amundson

Bob was a sweet person! He always had a great hand shake & hug for you! My favorite saying to him when I saw him was, "SOB: Sweet Ol Bob!"he would just grin and laugh. Gonna miss this fine person! Many loved & will miss him! Good man!
Joe Laroue

I always wanted to play more ball on the same team with Bob but it didn't happen too often. He was five years older than me so when it was time for me to move to the next age level he was doing the same. He really knew the game of softball and I learned a lot from his "constructive criticism". Some didn't appreciate it but I welcomed it.
Greg Broeckelman

Bob was one of the nicest guys anyone could know. And without a doubt, one of the BEST ball player around. I can remember all too well his ROCKET arm from 2nd or Short Stop. His baseball sense & overall intelligence about the game was unbelievable!! He was always a step or two ahead of everyone. It has been such a GREAT pleasure to have known and played ball with & against such a GREAT GENTLEMAN for the last 16 or 17 years!!
He will be MISSED by all of
SCRAP IRON!!
May God Bless you BOB WILTGEN!!
Your Friend, STEVE LENTS

Never met a stranger. Great laugh, great hitter, great arm, great friend. We took many road trips to tournaments, lots of beers and tears of laughter. On these trips we began the discussions on how to structure Scrap Iron.
Bob Gryzmala

I joined the Scrap Iron 70 Legacy team in 2011; I had not traveled to any out-of-state tournaments before that. While I felt I was "rough around the edges," Bob saw that, came up to me, and asked if he could give me some pointers. He helped me improve my throwing accuracy, taking the best angle to catch fly balls in the outfield, and running the bases, all which made me the best player I could be. He told me to never change my swing. He also helped other players. He did this because he was very competitive and new softball with a team game.

Bob was very knowledgeable of the good fundamentals of softball, making him an excellent role model to look up to.

I was very impressed with Bob's accuracy and the velocity of his throws. I remember a number of times Bob would call for me to throw to him a ground ball I had fielded in the outfield, so that he could quickly turn and throw out a runner trying to score. As soon as "time" was called, he would look at me, and give me a "thumbs up" with a big smile, and he would then give me a compliment when we returned to our dugout. He was always very complimentary.

When Bob and I turned 75 in 2015, I put together the Beams and he retired from playing softball. He said he had traveled and played enough softball, and wanted to play more golf. Bob was the kind of teammate everyone would enjoy playing with.

JC

I remember playing on the same team in Broomfield over 20 years ago with him and Bob Gryzmala. Bob Wiltgen was a friendly guy with a great sense of humor. As a left handed hitter he always pulled the ball and hit it hard. A really good shortstop and a top player on any team he played for.

He and Marilyn rode with us from Seattle to Salem for a tournament one year and I really got to know them while they were not at a ball field.

What a great player, person, and friend. Without Bob's guidance and work there probably would not be the largest Senior Softball Organization in the world, "Scrap Iron Softball Club".

Mike Massong

One of my favorite memories of Bob (and Chris) occurred in Las Vegas when the two of them were sitting at the bar and a very attractive young woman came in and sat down alone at the bar and ordered a glass of wine. They decided she was undoubtedly a prostitute. About then I walked in and gave this young woman a hug and the looks on their faces was priceless. Bob and Chris sat there with their eyes and mouths wide open. She is my daughter-in-law.

Some of this story I didn't find out until later.

Jerry Sundberg

