



It all starts in March

For most of us March is the beginning of our new season, a few teams have already gone to a tournament or two. The Mesquite tournament is fast approaching and hopefully we will get some warmer days so many of us can shake of some winter rust. We wish all of you a safe fun and successful season.

Remember you are part of the largest senior softball club in the world, we have a lot to be proud of and thankful for. Just as a refresher here is our code of conduct:

CODE OF CONDUCT

WHILE REPRESENTING THE SCRAP IRON SOFTBALL CLUB, I WILL CONDUCT MYSELF AS A GENTLEMAN AT ALL TIMES.

ON THE FIELD OF PLAY, I WILL DISPLAY THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SPORTSMANSHIP.

MY ACTIONS ON AND OFF THE FIELD WILL NEVER DISCREDIT THE SCRAP IRON SOFTBALL CLUB AND ITS MEMBERS.



Bat Boy Billy

I would like to respond to a conversation that Barry started in our last issue regarding how many should you carry on your roster, he asked ***“What is the right number?”*** Personally from a coaching and players point of view, the perfect number is 10. Everyone gets to play, nobody’s sitting, however we don’t live in a perfect world, we pull muscles, we have brain farts, we get tired! So than I say 11, but often times that 11 means you only have 8 or 9 that can go to the next tournament, there’s that graduation, or grandkids birthday, or I shiver at the thought... surgery! So now we are up to 12... no same problems, 12 reduces to 10 quickly. Okay, 14... but that is a coaching nightmare because all 14 show up and are eager to play. I have heard of teams that carry a roster of 16 and often can’t field a team. On the other hand I know of teams that carry 12 and take the same 12 every time! In conclusion the perfect team consists of players who encourage each other, players who bond together to form the true definition of the word “team,” players who have each other’s back, players who are having fun. In my opinion, this is the kind of team that wins games!

What is your right number?

Bill

Spotlight on Scrap Iron Xplosion, by Barry Jark



In 2018 Xplosion had a great year at 60AAA. This year looks even more promising. Here is the Xplosion roster for 2019:

1. Arlis "Armless" Bader – He throws like a girl. But he can wing it underhand better than most of us do overhand (Note: "Master" was already taken).
2. John "Sloop John B" Bellatti – The Beach Boys were a major inspiration for him.
3. Don "Big Don D" DiFiore – He grunts so loud when he swings it sounds like he stepped in a bear trap.
4. Ed "Dilly Dilly" Dilley – This one is too easy. If he misses a fly ball he is banished to the "Pit of Misery".
5. Kevin "Commander" Flynn – He may hand out speeding tickets like drinks of water but he is not going to get one running the bases.
6. Barry "Waffle House" Jark – Most guys read the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition. Barry reads "Women of Waffle House".
7. Randy "Santa" Kunkel – He is a right jolly old elf that can pitch and play second base at the same time.
8. Dave "Pigpen" Masciotro – He plays in the dirt. He dives for more balls than a soccer goalie.
9. Gregg "Slappy" Pearson – He is a lefty and when he slaps the ball and runs he always gets on base. Well not always. Usually. Well sometimes.
10. Garry "Scoop" Peterson – He missed our team party because he was shoveling snow. And here we all thought he earned this nickname because of his glove.
11. Jim "Lone Wolf" Portz – He is from Wyoming. We think he likes sheep.
12. Moo "Camo King" Richardson – He even wears camo to funerals. Raise your hand if you knew that his real first name is Mike.
13. Dave "Superman" Schultz – Just watch how hard he swings and you know how he earns this nickname.
14. And last but not least..... Dan "Master" Silvey – Don't know how he continues to claim this nickname, since Nan is the real "Master" of that household.

Team clowns, I would say we have about 10 to 14 on any given day of playing softball. Armless Bader, Camo King Richardson and Scoop Peterson can't wait to "Hydrate" (what they call having a beer or three between games). We have several

players that think they are the best card players in the world: Commander Flynn, Slappy Pearson, Scoop, Armless and Slappy's better suited half, Kathy. You get them together and the cards will be flying. Don't invite Waffle House Jark over to your home for a Christmas party because if you do you will find beer bottles hidden in your wood pile and bottle caps in your Christmas tree, of course with the help of Armless and the nod from Sloop John B Bellatti. Don't let Camo King drive on the way to or from a tournament, unless you want to decrease your chance of living as 100+ MPH you will see most of the way there. Now you will think Dilly Dilly is all serious, but get him on the bench he can crack you up or crack up at you and don't let him and Alice slip away for long as they do act like a couple of teenagers and will get in trouble with their parents and might get grounded. Master loves to joke around until he gets in the batter's box because if he doesn't get serious and get a hit, then he has to hear it and hear it and hear it from his wife, Nan. Big Don D is an enigma, don't know if he is going to hit a massive home run or slap the ball to the coed line in right field, but you can bet your booties that either way he is going to come back to dugout with a big smile and look for someone to talk to.

We added 4 new players this year and they are all unique with their own quirks. Santa Kunkel is a big jovial bear of a guy with a quick wit and can trade barbs with the best of them, but has a heart as big as Texas. Superman Schultz is a great teammate, rock steady on the bench and always smiling, would rather be riding his motorcycle than playing softball, but boy can he play. Lone Wolf Portz can't make up his mind where to live (Arizona or Wyoming) and can't make up his mind which position to play and asked to wear the number 911, now who requests that number? Pigpen Masciotro is a unique lefthanded player who can play any infield position and was a great teammate on Colorado Home Fitness and is very focused when playing but his biggest asset is his better half Michelle who will keep you upbeat and smiling..

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Shocking news!!!

Did you know that last year our club received close to \$7,000.00 in donations from our King Soopers grocery card program. Here's the shocker, there has been approximately 200 grocery cards issued to our membership and only approximately 20 cards are being used! If we do some simple math, if 40 cards were being used we would have received \$14,000.00 and that's not even half the cards being used. Okay just for fun... help me out here... you do the math...if all 200 cards were being used we would have received \$???

Here we go again, another great chance for you to win some travel money and our club receive a large donation. Thanks John, your the best!

I'm running another fundraiser for Scrap Iron softball club. The squares are \$25 apiece. We'll take in \$2,500 and the total payout is \$1,500. The club will take in \$1,000. There will be 63 winners, 1 per game. Remember it's the last digit in the teams score that counts. I designated higher seed/darker uniform and lower seed/lighter uniform sides. This is because you could have two #1 seeds in the Final Four. Then we go by uniform color. The pay out per round tab shows you the pay outs with the amounts. Here is the breakdown for each winner.

- 1st round- \$10 per game(32 games)
- 2nd round- \$20 per game(16 games)
- sweet 16- \$30 per game(8 games)
- Elite 8- \$50 per game(4 games)
- Final 4- \$110 per game(2 games)
- Championship- \$200 winner(1 game)

You can look at the default attachment and select your square. Example B-6 as long as it's still available, first come-first serve. Once we fill the board I'll send this back out with the numbers. Unlike the Super Bowl, the numbers in basketball vary. Therefore nobody gets the so called bad numbers. Except, in my opinion the duplicate numbers like 5-5, 6-6, etc.....those numbers need a 10pt, 20pt, etc. difference in the final score to win. Let me know if you have any questions and let's start selling squares.

Just let me know how many and what number of the squares you want? You can pay via paypal at jpkdog8@yahoo.com or send me a check to 4659 Kiskadee Ct. Colorado Springs, CO 80911.....let's fill it up.

		LOWER SEED/LIGHT COLOR JERSEY									
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
HIGHER SEED/DARK COLOR JERSEY	1	A1	B1	C1	D1	E1	F1	G1	H1	Jim Casswell	J1
	2	A2	B2	C2	D2	E2	F2	G2	H2	I2	J2
	3	A3	B3	C3	D3	E3	F3	G3	H3	I3	J3
	4	A4	B4	C4	John K Alliance	E4	F4	G4	H4	I4	J4
	5	A5	B5	C5	D5	E5	F5	G5	H5	I5	J5
	6	A6	B6	C6	D6	E6	F6	G6	H6	I6	J6
	7	A7	B7	C7	D7	E7	F7	Andy Shapiro	H7	I7	J7
	8	A8	B8	C8	D8	E8	F8	G8	H8	I8	John K Alliance
	9	A9	B9	C9	D9	Jim Casswell	F9	G9	H9	I9	J9
	0	A10	B10	C10	D10	E10	F10	G10	H10	I10	J10

Introducing Tom Bechtel



Greetings Scrap Iron Players and Friends!

My name is Tom Bechtel, I have been a member of the Scrap Iron group for 2 years. I moved to Colorado in December of 2016 after 20 years in Lawrence Kansas. I had a nearly 40-year career in Long Term Health Care and Senior Living. I retired in March of 2018.

I have been playing Senior Softball since I turned 60 five years ago. I played with Dugout from Topeka Kansas for 3 years.

I was drawn into Senior Softball from my daughter-in law's dad, Steve Senne, who invited me to practices and to join their league in Topeka. I owe Steve a big debt for introducing me to this great sport and activity.

Unfortunately, Steve is not playing this year and is battling some major health issues. I think of him and that he is not doing what he loves this year every time I take the field.

When I moved to Colorado, I contacted Scrap Iron and was immediately welcomed into the group. I will always appreciate Joe Hernandez, Art Graebe and John Parisi for welcoming onto their teams, sight unseen. They were welcoming and gracious to me and my wife, which is reflective of the nice people I have encountered in my 2 years with Scrap Iron.

Since joining Scrap Iron, the travel has been very enjoyable for my wife and me. We hadn't seen a lot of the Western United States which had been a great side benefit.

There are so many benefits of playing Senior Softball the ones that are foremost is the great camaraderie of fellowship with my teammates and often players from other teams. Being part of an effective team is always enjoyable, no one plays perfectly, for me striving to do better is a big motivator. Another fun thing is the physical conditioning. Preparing for a specific activity is much more interesting than idly exercising. Many people say they want to "get into shape", doing the physical preparation for softball is rewarding as it can lead directly to improved performance (hopefully).

It is true that "good people make good teammates". It is also important to find joy in Senior Softball. Things may not always go perfectly, find satisfaction in the pursuit of doing better, appreciate the privilege to participate and enjoy the people on this journey.

Team News

No new team news reported this month. Team managers please report any information about your team, and your experience in Mesquite by March 25 and it will appear in the April edition. Send to me Art Graebe, firstbase17@me.com