

# SCRAP IRON Softball



January 2023



***A new year and a new season for softball, how great is that!***

---

Well sad to say we won't get the excitement of watching the Broncos play in the Super Bowl, but that doesn't mean it has to be boring... you can make it a very exciting game by getting a square or two in the annual Super Bowl pool that is put on by John Karagiannes. This is a tremendous benefit to our club and a possible benefit to your wallet! Please see the below information.

I decided to make the squares \$25.00 apiece this year since that's what we do for March Madness. That increases the winners from 12 to 30 chances to win with a total payout of \$1,250. This is a fundraiser and will now net the club \$1,250 as well. If you want a square simply e-mail me the number of the square you'd like by looking at what's open on the default tab....example C-1, D-8, etc. It's first come first served.

Prefer payment be made to Jim Casswell by Paypal to [jimcasswell@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcasswell@hotmail.com), zelle to same e-mail address or [303-906-5979](tel:303-906-5979), or by check to

Jim Casswell  
PO Box 260699  
Lakewood, CO  
80226

If necessary I can also take payments to cash app \$JPKDOG8, zelle to [jpkdog8@yahoo.com](mailto:jpkdog8@yahoo.com) or [719-337-0155](tel:719-337-0155), or by check to

John Karagiannes  
 4659 Kiskadee Ct  
 Colorado Springs, CO  
 80911

If using Paypal, please mark "Friends and Family" so we don't get taxed. Also DO NOT mention anything about gambling or football pools when using any of these three online apps. You can mention Scrap Iron or your numbers but we'll know what the payment is for.

DEFAULT		Payments	Payouts Per Quarter	SUPER BOWL	Winners						
		<b>VISITOR</b>									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>H O M E</b>	<b>A</b>	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	A9	A10
	<b>B</b>	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8	B9	B10
	<b>C</b>	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10
	<b>D</b>	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10
	<b>E</b>	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	E10
	<b>F</b>	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10
	<b>G</b>	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10
	<b>H</b>	H1	H2	H3	H4	H5	H6	H7	H8	H9	H10
	<b>I</b>	I1	I2	I3	I4	I5	I6	I7	I8	I9	I10
	<b>J</b>	J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6	J7	J8	J9	J10
These letters and numbers are for reference ONLY.											
New numbers will be drawn randomly once the board is full.											

---

**Welcome new Executive Board Members**

### **Tom Bechtel**

I am pleased to serve on the Scrap Iron Board executive as the Secretary. I have been a member of Scrap Iron for the past 6 years after moving to Colorado from Kansas. During that time I have enjoyed both the softball on the field and the number of friends I have made off the field. This is a unique organization in the Senior Softball world and we should be proud to represent this group as we play around the country.

In my non-softball time we have a family business managing short and long term rental properties in Summit and Douglas Counties. I also manage 2 condominium associations in Breckenridge.

### **Mark Gallegos**

I am very honored and humble about being nominated and chosen to be a Scrap Iron Committee Member. So many seasoned members have volunteered their time, ideas, and commitment since the Club was formed, I just hope I can fill some big shoes that are stepping down to let some of us “younger” guys take the baton. I want thank all of the current members, and all of the former members, for their hard work, diligence, and dedication on serving on the Executive Committee. This is such a great club, I am honored and proud to say I belong to the Scrap Iron Organization. This organization is well known on a national level in the Senior Softball World. This is my fourth year playing on a Scrap Iron Team, and I look forward to serving on the Executive Board and I am happy that I can “give back” to a Club that has treated me right. Thanks again for the nomination and the committee seat. I will do my best to make the Scrap Iron Organization proud.



*Please write to Bat Boy Billy, otherwise you will continue to get things like the this:*

An apartment building is on fire and people are at the window, screaming for help.

“Just jump out the window,” a man yells. “I’m a senior softball player. I can catch you.” One smart resident decided to get more information, first. “Wait,” he said. “What division do you play for?” “Over 70” shouts the man. “Ehhhh,” shrugs the resident. “I’ll

take my chances with the fire.”

### **Team News**

**The Scrap Iron 80’s** are a new AAA team for the 2023 season. We placed third at the Winter World Championships at Bell Bank Park in Mesa, Arizona, November 15-17. Our three all-tournament players were SS Orville Strain, LF Tom Imming, and 2B Dave Cox.

In the three-game round robin, we lost two games by one run and beat a major level team by 10 runs. In the playoff bracket, we won our first game by 2 runs and our second game by 6 runs. On Thursday morning, we lost to the #2 Seed by one run and the #1 Seed by 9 runs because they scored 11 runs in the top of the open inning.

We consider our first tournament to be a very good start because we got to know each other and enjoyed playing in this new \$280 million facility that has eight all-artificial turf fields for softball and baseball.

Our roster has five out of state players and 13 players from Colorado. Our Manager is Dennis Lutz, assisted by Ron Howard. It looks like our next tournament will be January 31 - February 2 in Palm Springs, California. We have our eyes on around 5 to 6 more tournaments before the Winter Worlds in Las Vegas.

Written by: "J. C." Moore

### **Scrap Iron Thunder**

This was our first tournament together as a new 55 Major Team. We went 2-0 in Pool Play, we beat a good team from Nevada (3SF), and a team from California called JU Entertainment. We earned the 2nd seed going into bracket play. In our first bracket game, we played Team Mission from Missouri. We played pretty well in this game, and we won by 6 runs. We played a team from Texas called the Texas Bulls. It was a close game until the open inning. They had a good open inning, putting up 7 runs. We battled back in the bottom of the open, and we scored 8 runs and won, putting in the semi-finals the next day. We came out flat with our bats against Finance of America from New Jersey, and we only scored 7 runs. It was our worst game of the tournament, and it dropped us down to the losers bracket. We played Supreme Athletics / CA / Energy from California. We bounced back and played better against this team, and we won by 7 runs. That was the 3rd place game, so winning this game put us in the Championship against Finance of America from NJ. We played a lot better this game, and we were winning in the 5th inning. In the 6th inning, we made a few costly errors in the field that gave them their 5 runs. We only scored 1 run in the 6th, and we ran out of gas in the 7th, eventually losing the championship 24-22. We took 2nd place, which was a great accomplishment in our first tournament playing together as a new TEAM. Top Hitters for Scrap Iron Thunder were Tom Gagliardi, Mark Gallegos, Steve Antonczyk, and Warren Baum. The Team chose the following players for All-Tourney: Tom Gagliardi, Mark Gallegos, Steve Antonczyk, and Warren Baum.  
Mark Gallegos, manager

### **75 Scrap Iron Diamonds**

We are very fortunate to be able to add several quality individuals and players in Don Carpenter, Terry Goodrich, Pat McGuigan and Hal Meyer with the start of the new travel softball season! Unfortunately, Pat was not able to join us at the Winter Worlds, since he was staying home to help Carol better health. We are looking forward to having him join us in future tournaments.

For the Winter Worlds we added Len Gann and Ralph Thies. Both quality individuals. For the tournament we went 5-0, with wins of 25-17 15-0, 17-8, 16-0, 18-6 for a total of 91 runs scored against 31 allowed. This is an amazing group of guys (the wives that come along are terrific also) that I am honored to be the coach. The starting pitcher was Len

Gann, and the above scores show why we left him in for most of the games. We have an outstanding pitcher in Tony McIlroy, but he agreed to leave Len in. We also found a little more about Len. He can and did send the ball to places where nobody is going to find it! Our infield is manned by Don Carpenter with his accurate and strong arm, Alan Wiechmann at shortstop ranging left and right to gobble up ground balls, Ed Clark with his strong arm and quick release dooming numerous runners and completing double plays, Terry Goodrich making non-stop plays to get us out of innings and then there is Hal Meyer being very solid at first base. Then there is Ron Hefner playing each position like he has played it all his life and allowing the infielders a chance to take a break and keep the play at a high level!! As an outfielder we see a guy on first base and fully expect a double play.

In the batting department we had 4 individuals hit over 800, Mike Anderson, Terry Goodrich, Tony McIlroy and Hal Meyer. As a team we hit 706. Playing fields with 336 foot fences, Don Carpenter saw several long blasts caught because they were playing so deep. Other than that each player provided hits when needed and we are looking forward to when we are back on the field together with our full roster.



Jim Casswell, manager

**Peak Softball / Storage Time / Scrap Iron 60** team won the SSUSA Winter Worlds 60 Major tournament in Phoenix .

Entering the tournament with a 12 man roster and losing 2 players after their first game, Peak played 9 games with 10 players. Led by All Tournament team members Scott Graham , Brad Feik, Chris McTigue ,Tom Sutak and Chris Crumrein overcame a loss in their first bracket game winning 6 games in a row to capture the Winter World's Championship and a Berth in the 2023 SSUSA TOC. Also contributing with timely hitting and great defense were Carl Markey, Ross Gullien, Ken Lindow. Seth Little, Joe Riberio, Cory Firzlaff and Jeff Bobyack.

The Peak softball / Scrap Iron 65 team also competed in Winter World's finishing in the top 6.

Charles Graham, manager

### Scrap Iron Diamonds 70's

We had a few injuries that kept us from competing in the Winter Worlds last fall, plus with re-organizing our 65's team to a 70's team we were short a couple players. I'm happy to report that we have found a couple players and are off to Bullhead City in mid January. It will be great to get together as a 70's team and play some winter ball in warm Bullhead ☺.

Art Graebe, manager

### Other News



From Dave Adams, manager of Scrap Iron High Octane

I want to share some softball news with all of you. About 16 months ago, Penne's coach from her Florida team (Ruth Felmuth, HOF class of 2008 ) nominated her for the National Senior Hall of Fame. Penne has played with Ruth for the last 5 years and we've become good friends. After being nominated, the work began!

Not sure if any of you know what the process is for the National HOF, but they require that the applicant submit an extensive "Resume" book to the committee for review and consideration to be placed on the ballot. It's required that you document all of your achievements during your senior softball career. With the help of Ron Howard, we began digging thru old photos and awards and tournament results. They also require that you submit letters of recommendation from teammates, coach's etc. Jamie and Rick wrote Penne two wonderful letters talking about her dedication and commitment to the game that they witnessed at all of the practices we had together in Longmont. Even though it was a lot of work, it was also a lot of fun going thru old photos and tournament results, remembering special people and moments at the different events all over the country. We worked on the book for 3 months and submitted it to the committee last November.

The ballots finally came out to the current members of the Hall on November 1st and they had until the end of the month to submit their votes. We're on vacation with our daughter this past week and on Monday Penne received the "Call from the Hall" that she has been voted in! It was special that the 3 of us could be together.

Penne gets to choose where she will be inducted during a senior tournament, probably an event where her Florida team is playing. The National Hall of Fame includes all of the senior sanctioned organizations we play under, SSUSA, SPA, ISSA, ISA, ASA and the Huntsman, but is administered by SPA.

There are now 68 Women in the United States that are in the Hall and Penne is one of them. We have received many forms of congratulations including a very nice letter from Dave Dowel, National director of SSUSA. Since you all are special to both of us we

wanted to share this great news with you. I'm incredibly proud of my Wife as I know how hard she has worked and continues to work to be the best example of what Senior Softball is about. Please join me in congratulating Penne ( Penelope ) Adams to the National Senior Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2022 !

---



Congratulations to the newly elected Scrap Iron HOF inductee, Carl Markey. Weeks after receiving this prestigious honor, he competed in the Winter Worlds in Mesa, Arizona in both the 60s Major and 65 Major categories. Playing first with High Octane (65s), the team went 4-2 winning their bracket of 7 teams. Their only losses were to a 65 Major + team. Next, Carl joined Scrap Iron Peak/Storage Time for their 60s Major tournament of 13 teams. After losing their first game in tournament play, Charlie Graham's squad of 11 1/2 (Joe Ribeiro dislocated his throwing arm but pinch ran in every game.) rattled off 6 straight victories to capture the 60s Major Winter World Championship. Great team effort. So... 6 days, 16 games (11-5 record), over 100 innings played but most noteworthy **two World Titles** in one tournament!

---

#### **From our Treasure, Jim Casswell**

Scrap Iron has a donor that is providing us with a challenge. The Donor is willing to provide a **matching contribution up to \$5,000.00 for anything that is donated by 1/31/23**. Please note that this can be as part of your retirement required minimum distribution (RMD). This provides a terrific opportunity to support our fellow Senior Softball community. You can email me, Jim Casswell, at [jimcasswell@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcasswell@hotmail.com) if you have questions or just verify your contribution.

You can send the contribution (not RMD's) through Zelle (email address above) or Venmo (phone number 3039055979). Please email me that if you send it through either of those options.

Check should be made payable to Scrap Iron softball and mailed to the following:

Jim Casswell  
PO Box 260699  
Lakewood, CO 80226

---

## **IT'S MORE THAN A GAME – REMEMBER WHY**

John Parisi

Last year was Scrap Iron Softball Club's 30th anniversary. Year 2023 begins with 18 teams, two more than last season. For the first time in our history we will have teams in every age division from 50 to 85. Club member loyalty is amazing. We must be doing some things right because players and teams find a way to stay involved. We had five teams move up in age division. Some players were not able to move up due to age, however two teams reformed at the previous age division and others found another team to join. I compliment the players and coaches with their hard work in finding the ways necessary to keep with our motto of "no player left behind".

We need to give credit to the game itself. Senior softball provides an avenue like no other senior sport. I hear the same comment from many of you, "I feel so blessed and thankful I can still play the game I love at my age". The game is the foundation. We make it great through our fellowship, competitive spirit, care and support, positivity, and determination on and off the field with our teammates and the teams we play. I encourage you with a resolution this year to do even more in fulfilling these important attributes. Your team, Scrap Iron members and fans are at your core and you should continue to work hard in making that connection. Yet, we need to reach out more to the other teams and participants with our inclusiveness.

Some ways to involve other teams is to complement their play, encourage their performance when they struggle, and be friendly. For example, at the end of the game we file across the diamond and many say good game over and over. It doesn't matter if the game was 20-5, we say the same thing. My belief is at the end of the game, we go to the center of the diamond as a group, like football teams. We seek out some players, shake their hands or pump fist, and say something genuine and positive from our heart. That is not easy when you lose but it would go a long way in making a difference and in raising everyone's performance standards. I encourage you to discuss this with your team and then let the other team know what you intend to do at the game's end.

All the best to you this coming year. My wish this year is for you to be injury free, play hard, have fun, and enjoy the game with others. See you on the fields my friends.