

SCRAP IRON Softball



June 2021

The 2021 softball season is finally in full swing, we have the Saturday league, 70's Monday league, and 50's plus Wednesday league all up and running. Many of our teams are already on their fourth or fifth tournament. Much better than last year, looks like we are finally beating our opponent, that nasty COVID 19 virus.

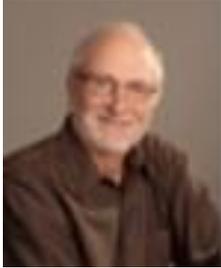
It was recommended by a member and in asking around this sounds like a good addition to our newsletter, the suggestion was to have a place in our newsletter where members can sell good used softball bats or other softball related items. In our next edition we will try it, if you have something softball related to sell send me a picture and a good description along your contact information, I'll get it in. firstbsse17@me.com.

Editors correction, last edition I mentioned that we were coming up on our 20th anniversary, thanks to Bob Gryzmala, who reminded me that the first Scrap Iron team played in 1992, that means we are coming up on our 30th anniversary! Thank you Bob, I would like to call it a typo, yes I'll call it a typo, and only you and I will know the truth!

In this edition please read a great article from Don Carpenter on forming their new 75's team, thank you Don, also we have a article from Mike Weatherford, Mike played on a Scrap Iron team several years ago and now is back and happy to be playing again.

“Growing old
is mandatory,
*but growing up
is optional.*”

– Walt Disney



I don't know exactly when I first joined Scrap Iron, but I think it was when I was 60, or about 15 years ago. I have always loved and respected the Club, as it has a reputation around the country for having great athletes who display great sportsmanship.

I have played at all four levels from AA to Major+ and each level has been fun and rewarding. I am fortunate to live in the same city as Dennis Lutz, who has become a great friend, teammate and mentor to me. He has spent a lot of time with me helping me to get better, and I have worked hard to keep up with his expectations. Of course, all you need to do is to watch Dennis, and your level of play rises a notch or two just because he is there. I thank him for his love of the game, for his teammates, and for me, and I thank the Scrap Iron Club for giving us all the opportunity to play the game we love.

Here's the rest of the story of the Scrap Iron Legends.

Scrap Iron Legends – 75 AAA (Oops!! As of these past few days, that would now be “75 Major”) I can't tell you the exact date, but just about exactly a year ago when we saw Senior Softball shutting down all over the country, I was playing with Greg Broeckelman and Stan Suichta on the Tri-State Diamondbacks team out of Albuquerque, NM. We were playing 75 Major with them because there was no existing team in that age/skill level within the Scrap Iron Club.

We wanted to play Scrap Iron ball again, so I thought I would start asking a few questions. The reason Scrap Iron didn't have a 75 Major team is the lack of players. I thought it would make a lot of sense if I could try to form a 70 AAA team because of the surplus of players at that level. It is an even slide from 75 Major to 70 AAA, so the three of us qualified at that level. That's where I started.

During my early efforts I was able to find some excellent players who I trust, who were willing to back my efforts. Of Course, Greg Broeckelman and Stan Suichta, both inducted into the Senior Softball Hall of Fame, but I also recruited Bob Darrah, from Scottsdale, AZ to come on board. Bob is a former teammate, and he played in the NY Yankees organization early in his baseball career as a pitcher, and he knows a lot of people....and he knows talent and skills when he sees them. Doug Kinney also made some good recommendations to me.

Shortly, word of the demise of the 75 AAA Scrap Iron Reds got out, and some of their players contacted me with questions. The last tournament they played in was the Winter Worlds in Phoenix in November 2019. These guys were starving to play some ball.

After getting commitments from some of them, I noticed that we were gravitating towards playing at the 75 AAA level, so that is when I switched gears. Most of us old-timers would rather play at our correct age level, so I set our sites on being a 75 AAA team, and a 75 AAA team capable of playing at the 75 Major level.

The player selection process needed to include guys who get along with each other and not be problems in the dugout, and players willing to listen and learn how to get better. And of course, we would represent Scrap Iron as “Top-Notch Sportsmen”, a reputation the Club has earned. It worked!

Bob brought us Rick Purdy, probably the fastest 75 year-old on the planet and a great hitter, and Sam Cianfarano, who is our shortstop. Greg recommended, very wisely, Ken Armbruster, great hitter and fielder. Doug guided me to some ex-SI Reds players, whom I contacted, and all eventually agreed to sign up, Bob Bennett, Warren Bailey, Wayne Fields and Larry Ouret. I recruited Mike Anderson after his phone call to me, Orville Strain, a previous and talented teammate and Ron Hefner, aka Mr. Soft Hands.

Somewhere along the way, when I realized we were shaping into a valid team, I realized that we needed a Coach/Manager, and a Respected Gentleman to manage these guys. I played many softball years under the coaching of Mike Massong, who we all know is totally qualified to fill the bill. He and his wife Janice had just moved to Mesquite, NV for her health reasons, but

Mike was currently out of a softball job. PERFECT! He loves Scrap Iron, and Scrap Iron loves him!

I contacted Mike, who needed to get through some other issues on his plate at that time, but he told me he would consider it. When the time was right for him in early January 2021, we signed him up.

Since Mike started leading our team, we have played in three tournaments. (1)Top Gun Classic in Bullhead City, (2)Spring World Championships in St. George, and the (3)Southwest Championships in Las Vegas. WE WON ALL THREE TOURNAMENTS, and guess what???

We are now rated as a **75 Major team** with talented and hungry players ready for the challenge, and with a leader who has been there before. Hey guys, Let's do this!

Your SI Legends team is still writing its Legacy.
God is Good.....and to Him be the Glory!

Don Carpenter
Assistant Manager
Scrap Iron Legends