

Senior Softball Winter Camp

—Submitted By Al Schneider,
Camp Director

Hello to all our New Jersey Senior Softball Association former teammates, Friends and Softball Camp buddies. The 18th (hard to believe) Senior Softball Winter Camp brought back many memories to all who were fortunate to be able to participate and play.

And play we did; four days of daily doubleheaders, pre-game optional stretching and loosening up exercises with Kendall (any of you remember Katrina? Her picture is on the website), our new personal trainer lady, and personalized hitting and fielding clinics for each camp team. Plenty of dugout and host hotel pre and post-game chatter and Florida sun & fun for all.

2009 Camp Champions were the Blue Blasters with representatives from five states, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida and North Carolina making up the team. Four NJSSA players will be wearing their 2009 Camp Champions green jackets to their NJSSA league games this year.

The Silver Bullets, White Knights, and Red Raiders were the other semi-finalist teams on Championship day in Camp. NJSSA players contributed much to each of their teams throughout the team seeding competition games. The Orange Crushers beat the Cranberry Capers to take Division II honors. It is always great hearing from you and swapping stories about the early years of Senior Softball in New Jersey, as well as what is happening now. Warm regards to all and we hope to see you in Winter Camp XIX.

UCSSL 2008 SEASON RESULTS

Congratulations are due to our 3 regular season and playoff champions, as well as to our 2 state champions. Last year, all 3 regular season champions were upended in the league playoffs. This season, all first place teams continued on to become league playoff champions as well. Congratulations to Bare Necessities (50's, A-Division), SMC (50's, B-Division) and Creative Industries (60's) for their stellar accomplishments.

It also should be noted that Buffy's Tavern finished 4th with a 3-2 record, in the competitive "A" Division in the 50+ State Tournament August 23rd and 24th, and Northwestern Mutual finished 3rd in the "C" Division with a 2-2 record.

It would be great if more UCSSL teams chose to compete in this annual NJSSA competition.

This year's UCSSL results are outstanding and speak for themselves. Our 60's Division is strong and growing. UCSSL entered 3 teams in the "A" Division this year; a first in the 60's History.

UCSSL sent 4 teams: Creative Industries, Kilkenny House, Commerce Bank, and LA Law to the NJ 60+ State Tournament in Linden on September 6th. Commerce Bank went undefeated to win its 2nd consecutive state "A" Division title. Congratulations to Carlo Melia and his Commerce Bank team on repeating as "A" Division Champions by defeating a strong field of contenders.

LA Law came back to capture the title in the only other division and are now NJ "C" Division champions for 2008. Congratulations to Ron Zimmer and his LA Law team for an outstanding Championship in the "C" Division. I know it was a long and difficult season for LA Law but they never complained and never quit. Lou is very proud of you guys.

Congratulations to the players, managers and sponsors of each of these teams!

—Written by Pete Osborn and Norm Stumpf.

2008 PLAYOFF GAME RESULTS

50'S PLAYOFFS:

Awnings Galore 5 Buffy's Tavern 4

Awnings Galore held on for 5-4 victory in the rain. Bob Grausam, Bob Rahnenfuher, Neil Grandstrand, Bruce Crawford, Fred Amado and Dave Waxtel all contributed two hits. Great defense led by pitcher Tom Pasko kept Buffy's off the scoreboard in 6 of 7 innings.

Buffy's Tavern 11 Awnings Galore 1

Buffy's Tavern 6 Awnings Galore 2

In the "A" division semi-finals Buffy's defeated Awnings to take the best of 3 series.

Bare Necessities 11 D&K 3

In a rain shortened game, Bare Necessities defeated D&K.

Bare Necessities 13 D&K 4

Bare Necessities defeated D&K led by Joe Massimino's 3 hits. Frank Pepe, Tom Straniero and Tony Williams all homered. Bare Necessities takes the series 2 games to none, and advances to the "A" division's finals.

KMD Tuning 9 Rel/Max 2

KMD Tuning 10 Rel/Max 7

KMD won both ends of the double header and will advance to the "B" division's finals. Both games were close defensive battles, with the 2nd game at 8-7 entering the 6th inning. Leading KMD in hitting was Kerry Gelb with 3 doubles and Paul Taeschler with a home run and several more hits. Brian McDermott delivered a key 2-run triple to provide the final margin in game 2. Dan Mulligan pitched 2 strong games for KMD.

The Office 21 SMC 18

The Office rallied from an 11-4 deficit to stun the first place finishers. SMC took a 5-4 lead after 3 innings and then scored 6 more runs in the top of the 4th. The Red Shirts roared back with 7 in the bottom of the inning to tie the game at 11. The Office hitting continued as they took a 21-11 lead into the 7th. However, SMC came back in the 7th, scoring 7 times before Ken Dunbar struck out the potential tying run for the final out. The Office produced 29 hits, with 7 players having 3 each. Dennis Kosowicz and Charlie Wischusen had 3 RBI's each. Mike DeChiaro, Dave Drechsel and Glen Zuhl contributed two each.

SMC 8 The Office 7

SMC 14 The Office 10

The Office's magical ride toward the league championship came to an abrupt halt in a doubleheader loss to the regular season champions SMC. Dave Dreschel was 5 for 6. Glen Zuhl and Bill Hinkle were both 4 for 6 to lead The Office. Ken Dunbar provided steady pitching as he went the distance in both games. But, as was the case all season long, shoddy defense led to The Office's demise.

Buffy's Tavern 10 Bare Necessities 2

Bare Necessities 12 Buffy's Tavern 8

Bare Necessities 14 Buffy's Tavern 9

After dropping the opening game of the "A" division playoffs, Bare Necessities came back to win a doubleheader Tuesday night. By taking the series, Bare Necessities becomes both regular season and playoff champions.

KMD Tuning 17 SMC 10

KMD nursed a slim 8-6 lead into the seventh, when SMC came back to tie the score. KMD staged a rally with a big 8th inning to clinch it. Billy Early, Paul Taeschler and Ed Quinn hit home runs for KMD. Dan Mulligan had a strong game on the mound.

SMC 12 KMD Tuning 10

Game 2 of the "B" division finals went to SMC in seesaw battle.

SMC 9 KMD Tuning 8

In a well-played thriller, SMC defeated KMD Tuning 9-8 to win the "B" division championship. KMD took an 8-7 lead on a home run by Paul Taeschler in the top of the 7th, but SMC rallied back for 2 runs in the bottom half for the victory. SMC was also the regular season winners.

Creative Industries 19 LA Law 8

Creative Industries 25 LA Law 16

With the sweep, regular season champion Creative advanced to the 60+ Divisions finals.

Commerce Bank 15 Kilkenny House 5

Commerce Bank jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the top of the 1st inning. Clutch hitting and solid defense, including 4 double plays, secured the victory.

Commerce Bank 9 Kilkenny House 5

Solid defense and timely hitting enabled Commerce to advance to the 60+ Division finals.