

## SENIOR OLYMPICS SOFTBALL

Senior Olympics softball is part of a national program that include many activities such as softball, swimming, track, tennis, golf and volleyball, among others. The Senior Olympics are held in a different city, every two years. In 1997 Don Slocum organized a local softball team for those age 60 and over to participate in a tournament in Tucson, Arizona. The West Orange Embers softball team won the silver medal. Four local New Jersey men joined the Tucson 60 and over baseball team and won the gold medal. They were Don Slocum, Paul Oliver, Carl Lombardi and Frank Feeny.

The West Orange Embers played in every single Olympic tournament winning the silver medal in 1999 in Orlando, FL, 2001 Baton Rouge, LA

and 2003 in Norfolk, VA. The Embers won the 75 and over gold medal in 2005 in Pittsburgh, PA and won the gold medal in 2007 in Louisville, KY.

Plans are being made to participate in the Senior Olympic softball tournament which will be held in San Francisco, CA. Tony Naturale is the manager and can be reached by phone at 973-366-5088 if you are interested in playing.

—Written by Paul Oliver.



## SENIOR SOFTBALL PLAYER HIT FIELD IN RANDOLPH TO HONOR TEAMMATES

### Wives of the pair who died in past year throw out ceremonial first pitches

On Tuesday, Randolph...Barbara Slocum and Kay Horacek visited Brundage Park to throw out the ceremonial first pitches during a morning game of softball, the sport their husbands loved to play.

Each became a widow this past year, and to show its respects, the Tuesday Morning Division of the North Jersey Senior Softball League invited Slocum, of Convent Station and Horacek, of Parsippany, to toss the first pitches in honor of Donald Slocum, who died at 78, and Jay Horacek, who died at 70. "It was the one thing that he really enjoyed," Horacek later said of Jay. "I think it was the camaraderie, a great bunch of men. They're caring, and their friendship... it just meant everything." Gene Stracco, a Randolph resident who helps organize the league, said each widow received a bouquet of flowers before the competition began. Sussex, Parsippany and Union each had a team along with three teams from West Orange and two from Randolph. "It's just fun," Stracco said. "It's fun for guys who love the game

and want a little exercise and a little camaraderie during the season. They feel like they're kids again."

—Written by Matt Manochio, Daily Record.



## THE MIDDLESEX SOFTBALL LEAGUES (60, 70 & RET)

### Have Been Wrestling With a Few Rules Pertaining to Safety.

Apparently even at this age there seems to be differences of opinion regarding the need for certain rules to be included or excluded depending on the league officials (WHIMS). The Pitcher Safely Rule (PSR) is in effect in the 60 and 70 LGS, but not the retired LG. Pinch-Runners are limited to last batter-out in the 60 only. (All 3 Leagues do limit any PR to run but once an inning). We had tried the over-running rule in all 3 leagues over the past few years, but finally gave up on it. We even tried "veering" away to no available and finally settled on the basic stop, give up or slide decisions. (The latter quite inadvisable at our ages). Finally,

we don't keep individual player accomplishments, but last years retired league season-ending cellar dwellers (Patriots Plaza) team copped the playoffs going 5-0. (All depends on who shows up).

You're doing a great job... Keep it up.

—Written by Tom Jackson.



## Did You Know?

That John Viggiano, long time player from Middlesex and Monmouth Counties, is a retired U.S Secret Service agent. During his time with the agency he was assigned to protect former Presidents Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and other world leaders. After he retired, he became the personal bodyguard for Jackie Kennedy Onassis. The job he held for over 10 years until her death in 1994. And thru it all, he still found time to play senior softball, and still does.

The veteran softball pitcher, Ira Kreizman of the Silver Knights in the Monmouth League, is a Monmouth County Superior Court Judge. He has presided over many famous, (or infamous,) criminal cases including some high profile murder trials. He recently sentenced a drug kingpin to the maximum sentence. So when Ira's pitching, don't even think about arguing balls or strikes, unless you're a lawyer, and then you start with an 0-2 count.

Joe Parascand, from Middlesex County is a renowned artist, His work in still life, portraits, and the outdoors has been shown in art galleries and exhibits around the country. He has been awarded top prizes in many prominent art shows. To view some of Joe's work, go to his wesite at [www.joeparascand.com](http://www.joeparascand.com).