

## NJSSA LOSES AN ICON



Bob Rowland

The New Jersey Senior Softball Association lost one of its most respected and beloved members with the passing of Bob Rowland in February. Bob had been roving the senior softball fields for almost thirty years, as a player, a coach, an umpire and a director for the state tournaments. He played and coached teams in Union County. He was a certified ASA umpire, officiating games throughout the State. His passion for the game and his desire to make

the Tournaments fun and competitive was his ultimate goal. He was one of the original members of the State Committee that brought the Senior Softball World Series Qualifier Tournament to Trenton, New Jersey in 1992 and continued for the next decade.

His work on the State Tournaments were never ending, as he had already secured the fields in Linden for this year's 50+ and 60+ tournaments at the time of his death. Bob was a familiar figure at all the events, assigning the umpires, having the fields maintained, recording the scores, and even presenting the trophies to the winning teams. Someone will take his place on the committee, but he will never be replaced.

## SOFT BALL MEMORIAL GAME FOR DECEASED PLAYERS

A group of 38 Senior Softball Players, ranging in age from 61 to 85 played a game at Degman Field in West Orange, Saturday, August 28th, in remembrance of their fellow players that have passed away in recent years. Those remembered were: Doctor Don Slocum, Jay Horecek, Sonny Sernercha, Pat Moran, Don Braun, Art Shaffner, Dom Deo, Pete Garaogolous, and Don Roth.

Paul Oliver was an inspirational leader, giving a brief talk and a prayer to honor all who passed away. Paul and Bob Thourot organized a 3 team of Hit, Sit and field teams with the red team winning it, scoring 12 runs and the white and blue teams each scoring 9 runs.

It is hoped that we can continue this event in the future. A possible 75+ tournament was also considered.

Older players that may be interested in this event please contact **Tony Naturale at 973-366-5088 or email popopnatch@aol.com**



## MORE THAN JUST PLAYING SOFTBALL

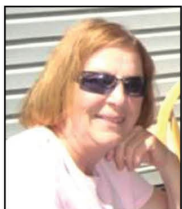
To most seniors, playing softball is fun and something they enjoy. To others helping those less fortunate is just as important. That is the goal of some of the Middlesex County Over 50 and Over 60 Senior Softball League players. Jerry Yaros, Joe Serrao, and Bob Hutcheon volunteer their services at the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry in Perth Amboy. They are some of approximately 90 volunteers that serve over 300 needy families every Saturday morning with supplemental groceries.



Standing L-R: Jerry Yarros, Joe Serrao, and Bob Hutcheon.

## SANDY SMITH

### First woman to complete in the NJSSA 60+ State Tournament



My name is Sandy Smith and I have been playing softball for over 30 years. At age 63, I currently play on two men's softball leagues in Old Bridge and am currently the only female in the league. Last fall I was the first woman to compete in the NJSSA 60+ State Tournament. I also play on the Jamesburg Women's League with my youngest daughter,

Erica Smutko. Being on three different leagues keeps me on the field 3 days a week.

Softball has always been a part of my life. I coached each of my daughter's softball teams when they were growing up and continued to play on Women's leagues over the past 30 years. I always thought that I would give it up one day, but as each season approached I just

couldn't pass up the opportunity to play. I have always been the pitcher in the women's leagues but about three years ago I became the men's league pitcher also. I really enjoy the sport and I will play as long as I am able to.

I have three grown daughters. In my spare time, while not on the field, I babysit my five grandchildren - twins Hannah and Grace (age 3) and Dillon (age 11), Jennie (7) and Emma (5). I have lived in Monroe Township for nearly 40 years and hope to continue playing softball for many years.



Sandy lines hit in State Tournament

## Safe at Home

This Past Year Senior Softball lost the following members.

- Joe Adelhardt
- Frank Arbolino
- Eugene Doyle
- Pete Gergulas
- Steve Regeg
- John "Duke" Rensing
- Bob Rowland
- Heshy Slotnick
- Gerald Perpetua
- John McCarthy
  - Joe Viola
  - Lenny Yenish

## In Memoriam

The following is a list of members of the New Jersey Senior Softball Association that have passed away.

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Jim Airey        | Dennis Miller      |
| Nick Angelillo   | Al Mills           |
| Nick Atria       | Patrick Moran      |
| Larry Behr       | Tony Muccia        |
| Bill Blitz       | Ken Nixon          |
| Dick Borman      | John Offerman      |
| Tom Burke        | Ken Olson          |
| Don Braun        | Armando Passarelli |
| Bob Canales      | Bruce Pelletier    |
| Flip Chambliss   | Gerald Perpetua    |
| Ed Chaven        | Al Perry           |
| Joe Connelly     | Robert Postel      |
| Mike Champion    | Tom Price          |
| Dan Cox          | Jim Powell         |
| Fred Daprile     | Larry Rehak        |
| Mike DeCeglia    | Joe Riggio         |
| John Denito      | Joel Rosenberg     |
| Dom Deo          | Don Roth           |
| Jerry McDermott  | Tony Russo         |
| Bob Durkin       | Frank Scaliti      |
| Ray Fasteau      | Sonny Senerchia    |
| Tom Fitzmaurice  | Art Shaffner       |
| Joe Gabel        | Barbara Schmidt    |
| Ed Ganczewski    | Jim Schultz        |
| Harold Gelbhaus  | Don Slocum         |
| Frank Giglinto   | Ed Stevens         |
| Jay Horacek      | Frank Sweeney      |
| Russ Howell      | Butch Taras        |
| Tony Hyman       | Ernie Tasseff      |
| Joe Kelly        | Don Trifari        |
| Bob Krause       | Anthony Valeriani  |
| Norm Lannone     | Clyde Vail Jr.     |
| Jerry Lestardo   | Jim VanBrunt       |
| John McCarthy    | John Vereb         |
| John McCabe      | Lou Vespasiano     |
| Tom Madine       | Pee Wee Vogel      |
| Al Manning       | John Williams      |
| Ed Manthey       |                    |
| Frank Martinelli |                    |