AND YET EVEN STILL MORE SENIOR SOFTBALL SNIPPETS

Vic Zoldy implored us to have fun playing softball in this league. There is no better medicine in life than laughter. If we can't laugh at ourselves playing softball as if we were still kids, then it isn't fun. Here are some of our favorite lighter moments from the league's history that makes us all laugh as we move forward into Calendar Year 2017.

SOME LEFTOVERS FROM LATE LAST FALL…

The boys' antics don't even stop when the season is over and we're all awaiting the start of the next. Here are a few "Between-the-Seasons" snippets while we waited for the start of the 2017 Winter League…

251. Senior Softball Snippet: *Deceptively fleet-footed, that Flash Dougherty character …* It was one of the last outdoor pick-up games of the season at School Road Park. Tom Dougherty of the old Midnights team, whose reputation around the league is known for his hitting prowess but not known for his excessive speed around the bases, ripped a gapper that found him standing safely on second base. Claiming some sort of injury, Tom immediately asked for a pinch runner. In keeping with the league rules, nobody questioned Tom's request, so a pinch runner was sent out to relieve Tom at second base. You had to be there to witness it. Tom vacated the base and ran so fast back to the dugout that it was nothing but a blur seen streaking across the diamond. The rest of the players, including those on Tom's pick-up team, were all shaking their heads in disbelief. He ran faster OFF the field than ON the bases! After the game, somebody revealed that last Halloween, Tom dressed up like the Marvel comic book character, *The Flash*. Apparently he's been trick or treating ever since in the MCSSL.

252. Senior Softball Snippet: *First error of the rapidly-approaching winter season …* It didn't go unnoticed. Jim Marple of the old Magics team has the reputation for being as sure-handed as anybody in the league. Jim rarely makes an error, but like it always seems to happen, it cropped

up at the most inopportune time. It got the immediate attention of everybody in attendance. The scene was the 2016 MCSSL Holiday Party in front of a near-sold out crowd. It was in the top of the sixth hour in the evening, Table No.3 was up in the buffet line, a piled-high salad was in Jim's left hand while he balanced an entrée plate in his right hand. The rest of Table No.3 had already returned to their seats as Jim approached his chair. Nobody knows why or how it happened, but Jim booted the salad play and dumped the whole bowl onto the floor. Immediately the fans began chanting, "E-six! E-six!" The quick-handed Jim recovered as fast as anyone could imagine, scooping up the lettuce, tomatoes, onions, peppers, croutons, salad dressing – you name it – shoveling everything back into the bowl and resuming his seat at the table. Great recovery! As everybody who has ever played this game knows… when you make an error, you eat it.

253. Senior Softball Snippet: *Practice games are also for practicing umpiring calls …* The boys were playing a practice pick-up game at the indoor facility prior to the start-up of the official winter season. Gary Krause was turning in his usual stellar performance at third base. Billy Mallozzi was coaching and umpiring third. It was somewhere in the middle innings of the second game. There was a runner on first with only one out. Billy and Gary were engaged in the usual conversation that goes on during the games (although it's unusual to know what the usual conversation is about.) The next pitch gets ripped down third, a hard grounder. Gary snags the ball like Mike Schmidt in his glory days, steps over and tags third, tosses the ball softly back towards the pitcher's area, all the while continuing his conversation with Billy uninterrupted. Billy, eye-balling the base to make sure Gary did indeed tag it, gestures the "out" sign, all the while continuing his conversation with Gary uninterrupted. Both Billy and Gary walk off the field. Gary's teammates start yelling, "What are you doing? There's only one out!" Talk about two deer caught in the headlights. The grins on their faces told it all, plus, "Yeah, but if there would have been two outs it still would have been one hell of a play."

And now onto the 2017 indoor winter season, where the snippet hits keep coming and coming…

254. Senior Softball Snippet: *Why senior league team photos all look disproportionate…* Bob Carnahan of the Black-Shirt team made a very astute observation about the team photos on the MCSSL website. Bob pointed out that usually when you look at any team photo (like little leaguers or high schoolers for instance,) the tallest guys are standing in the back row and the littlest guys are kneeling in the front row. Not in the senior league, however. The front row usually consists of whichever team members are capable of kneeling down and getting back up again. That's why the MCSSL webpage team photos look so disproportionate.

255. Senior Softball Snippet: *Blind as a bat with his glasses on…* The Red-Shirt team came up to bat against the Black-Shirt gang. Howie Schwartz took his position as on-deck batter. The first pitch came in… striking the back edge of the plate with the familiar, distinctive dull thunk. Howie called out, "BALL ONE." Immediately, eleven Black-Shirt umpires responded in unison, "What are YOU looking at? It hit the plate!" Howie looked over at his bench, pleading his case, somehow realizing he made a bad call. "All right, all right. Strike one. I didn't see it hit the plate, okay?" The reply came from the field, "And he's even wearing glasses!" Not to be out-gunned, Howie removed his spectacles, bent his head closer to the plate, squinted and replied, "There. That better?"

256. Senior Softball Snippet: *How to pull off a double play without ever touching the ball…* This could ONLY happen in the senior league, especially ours. Nobody in the recorded history of the MCSSL had ever seen this happen before. The Maroon-Shirt team had one out when the next two batters each ripped singles. (We're going to keep the names out of print so as not to embarrass the players about what happened next.) Runners on first and second. In came the next pitch, right down the middle, or so it looked… the batter reared back, stepped into the pitch, suddenly decided it wasn't the pitch he was looking for, stopped his swing. Nobody remembered if the pitch was a ball or strike. Both runners, anticipating a sure swing, broke for the next base. There was a moment of silent disbelief. Talk about two kids caught with their hands in the candy jar. All that was heard next was a simultaneous, "… Oh, sh…..!" Both runners were declared out

for leaving the base with no swing. A very unorthodox double play. End of inning. The Maroon-Shirts went on to lose the game by one run.

There will be more, so stay tuned…

257. Senior Softball Snippet: *A senior opponent by any other name…* Chas Weygand of the Blue-Shirt team took the field (well, actually the court) for the usual pre-game warm-up. Chas looked around at today's opponents, the mighty Green-Shirt Team, warming up side-by-side along with all of Chas's teammates. "Looks like we're playing against a bunch of old guys today," Chas was heard to say to no one in particular. Mike DeStefano from the Green-Shirt Team was heard to respond, "That's funny. So are we!"

258. Senior Softball Snippet: *Speaking the King's English in the MCSSL…* Joe Gross of the Purple-Shirt team was up at the plate. In came the pitch from Manny London of the Red-Shirt team. Joe stepped into it, rotated his shoulders, decided it wasn't quite the pitch he wanted, checked, and stepped back as the ball hit the floor. The on-deck batter, Ed Spiegle, called out, "BALL!" Right away, the Red-Shirt fielders started disagreeing. "Hey! That was a swing!" Another fielder agreed. "Yeah. He swang at it." Manny chimed in. "Come on. He swung at the ball!" The Purple-Shirt bench fired back. "He never swinged at it!" The fielders responded back again. "He did. You swanged at the ball if the bat crosses the plate!" Ed Spiegle jumped back in. "I'm the umpire. He never swung the bat across the plate." Purple-Shirt manager Bob Gaugler stopped the game. "Wait a minute!" Bob bellowed out. "Let's get it right." Everyone agreed, nodding their heads in approval. Bob continued. "Is it *swing, swang, or swung*?" Everyone looked at each other. Nobody, it seemed, knew the proper answer. Manny continued, "Let's get some legal advice. John Packel… you're the league's legal eagle. What say you?" John Packel of the Red-Shirt team, who spent his entire career deciphering the nuances of rules, regulations, and the law, responded, "I think we need to have a sidebar on this." Manny replied, "Okay. Does anybody have a rule book?" suggesting they consult the official USSSA book. Nobody did. No sidebar. So Bob next suggested, "Then, if nobody has a rule book, and we can't determine if he

swinged, swanged, or swunged, then it was obviously a BALL." Reluctantly, everybody had to agree to Bob's logic so the game could continue.

259. Senior Softball Snippet: *Speaking the king's English in the MCSSL, the sequel…* It gets better. Later, in the same game the very next inning, Gordy Detweiler of the Purple-Shirt team was about to throw the next pitch when he suddenly stopped and called, "Time out!" Gordy had everyone's attention. "Before I throw the next pitch, I'd like to know if this guy is *up-at-bat*, a *batter*, or a *battee*." Everybody thought about it for a brief moment, then deferred immediately to John Packel of the Red-Shirt team. John fluffed his eagle feathers and responded, "It depends." John had everyone's undivided attention. Gordy asked, "Depends on what?" John replied, "If he's on-deck, then he's considered a '*batter*'. If he's in the physical process of preparing to, or in the motion of, or recoiling after the motion has been completed, then he's considered *'up-at-bat'*. If he's hit the ball fair and has commenced the physical process of the running motion toward the base, then he's considered a *'battee'*." There was a brief instant of deep thought, John's legal erudition creating a moment of silent applause from everyone on the field. Gordy walked back to the mound. "I thought so. I just wanted to make sure."

260. Senior Softball Snippet: *Speaking the king's English in the MCSSL, another sequel…* It gets better still. Just when everybody thought the matter was resolved and the game was finally resuming, Gordy hesitated again as he was about to throw the next pitch. "Now, John…" Gordy said, stepping back. "If the guy who was *'up-at-bat'* hits the ball fair and starts running to first base, isn't he considered a *'runner'*?" John thought for a moment. "I cannot deny that he must indeed be declared a *'runner'*." Gordy came back, "Then which one is he? A *'battee'* or a *'runner'*?" The learned John Packel had a sudden flashback to his glorious days of courtroom drama. Drawing on what seemed like a thousand years of experience, John replied as the true legal scholar everyone knows he is. "Well, I can only answer that this way…Within the *jurisprudence* relating to the MCSSL, notwithstanding accepting *mea culpa* on my humble part, the initiation of the physical motion of any individual results in *non sui juris* and therefore that individual is *non vult contendere* and the comparative notion has become *non sequitur*." There

was yet another pregnant moment of silent applause from everyone on the field. Gordy walked back to the mound again. “I thought so. I just wanted to make sure.”

261. Senior Softball Snippet: *Babe Ruth wasn’t the only one to have an asterisk in the annals of baseball history…* We’ve got a softball asterisk here in the MCSSL over the winter season. Well, maybe not officially. Our only asterisk is the result of a request by Manager Wayne Bailey of the Orange-Shirt Team. It was near the end of the season and Wayne’s guys had gone eighteen straight games with a big “W”. Nineteenth game. The Maroon-Shirt Team of Ray Forlano. Near the end of the season. Lotsa injuries throughout the league. Ray was short five guys and arranged for five substitute players from other teams. It was an awesome match-up that ended tied after seven innings. In the extra inning, the Maroon guys managed to squeak out the win, handing the Orange guys their first loss of the winter season. After the game, Wayne called foul, claiming that his Orangemen had just lost to a winter All Star Team. Wayne petitioned the league historian to add an asterisk to the league history. The league historian, wanting to maintain the peace and neutrality, compromised. He made it a “snippet” instead.

262. Senior Softball Snippet: *If only it was a Little League game…* The Black-Shirt Team was having a tough season, only squeaking out a few victories here and there. Near the end of the season, the boys were turning in a great defensive performance against the Maroon-Shirt Team. Top of the seventh, the score stood at 3-0 in favor of the Black-Shirts. All the boys needed were three easy outs. Oh, well. Yogi’s words came back again. When the dust settled, the Maroon-Shirts came back and handed the Black-Shirts a 5-3 loss. After the game when both teams were passing through the traditional congratulatory gauntlet, the Black-Shirt boys reminded the victors, “… if this was a 6-inning little league game, we would’a won!”

263. Senior Softball Snippet: *A new twist to the ‘leaving-the-base-with-no-swing’ rule…* Most all of us have been caught once or twice leaning off the base and getting called out when the batter doesn’t swing. We saw a new twist to that occurrence near the end of the season. The

Gray-Shirt Team runner (to save embarrassment, we won't name him) was on first base. In came the pitch. The runner (his initials are J.C.) started to lean. The batter didn't swing. The runner (he usually plays third base) tried to hold his balance. The laws of gravity took over, and the runner (he usually bats clean-up) couldn't hold his balance. Instead of perambulating off the base like most guys who get called out, the runner (know who it is now?) fell over like an uprooted tree. It was the first time the league ever saw a player "topple out."

264. Senior Softball Snippet: *Why don't they just call the 3-4-5 batters in the line-up order 'carnivores' ?* The Gray-Shirt Team ran off the field coming up to bat (well, actually, they walked off the court). "Who's up?" somebody asked. Donnie Petrille responded, "The meat of the order." That's when the confusion started. "Who's a 'meat-head'?" a player asked. "No. 'Meat' in the line-up," came the reply from Donnie. "Meatloaf? My wife makes terrible meatloaf!" one of the other guys said. Donnie exclaimed, "I didn't say 'meatloaf', I said 'meat'!" Somebody else asked, "Where we gonna meet?" The rest of the team chimed in. "We having a meeting? What's it about?" Donnie responded, "You knuckleheads! I said the 'meat' of the line-up is up!" Somebody asked, "We're meeting about the line-up? What's wrong with it?" Donnie just shook his head. "All I know is… I'm not up! The 'meat' is up." By this time Steve Mallozzi jumped in. "Billy didn't call for any meeting." Donnie just shook his head. "Oh, brother…" As Donnie headed to coach first base, the last thing he heard was, "I know Billy's wife makes terrific cookies, but I didn't know she made meatloaf, too…"

And the last snippet of winter…

265. Senior Softball Snippet: *Whose call is it anyway?* There is one question that seems to arise in almost each and every game played at the indoor winter facility: Whose call is it to determine if the ball hit the ceiling or not? It should be pretty obvious, right? Why, the umpire, of course. The problem is that when a ball is launched at the overhead netting, at least twenty umpires make the call, not always agreeing. We asked around the league for some suggestions. We got everything from, "…the catcher (few of them are capable of seeing that far)… the on-deck batter (they never pay attention)… the pitcher (he'd ALWAYS claim it hit the ceiling)…

base coach closest to the ball (we would need somebody to determine which coach is closest)… consensus of the two managers (yeah, right)… a committee specially appointed before each game consisting of three players from each bench (imagine that!)… consensus of the fans in the bleachers (like they really pay attention to the game)… and the list goes on and on. Finally, the winter league director, Gordy Detweiler, came up with the perfect suggestion, remembering how John Packel of the Red-Shirt Team earlier in the season litigated Swingate, Battergate, and Runnergate. Gordy declared, "I'm going to ask John Packel to juris-prudate this issue before the next season starts." Nobody knows what "juris-prudate" means, but they all agreed. But regardless, the league feels confident that John Packel will come up with the best *jurisdictional arbitrage* as to who should make the call. Stay tuned for the upcoming season…

Here are a couple of teasers to start the 2017 summer snippet season…

266. Senior Softball Snippet: *Perception is everything here in the MCSSL…* The 2017 summer season rolled around as usual with the annual early April "kick-off" meeting conducted under the generalship of the MCSSL's commissioner extraordinaire, John Frantz. About halfway through John's presentation of the league's upcoming business and highlights, however, John's lingering winter cold finally caught up with him. The old "frog-in-the-throat" interrupted his speaking, and several times John had to excuse himself for a few moments to recover his speech. Jim Binsberger came to the rescue once with a glass of water, which certainly helped. But it was Stan Walters who saved the day. Stan approached the podium handing John a blue throat lozenge. Of course, what everyone in the audience saw was Stan passing John a little blue pill. It seemed that in no time, John was up and running again, exhibiting a far greater oratory skill than earlier. Right away murmurs began zipping through the ranks of these highly perceptive senior softballers. By meeting's end, Stan Walters had become everybody's newest hero as he was inundated by at least a hundred attendees, all of them asking, "Hey, Stan! You got any more of those little blue pills you can give out?"

267. Senior Softball Snippet: *Howie's new excellent adventure, MCSSL style…* The league is populated by many talented individuals who unselfishly volunteer their time and expertise. At the annual 2017 summer "kick-off" meeting, it was announced that a new position had been created on the field maintenance team. Howie Schwartz, the latest volunteer, was named as the new maintenance mechanic for the league's aging tractor. Now, all that was needed was an official title for Howie. Tom Lane and the boys wracked their brains. After much deliberation, it was decided that Howie would become the league's ***T****echnical* ***E****xpert* ***R****epairer,* ***M****aintainer,* ***I****nnovative* ***N****ut-torque-turner and* ***A****dvanced* ***T****ractor* ***O****verhauling* ***R****esearcher*. For short, Howie's new official title is the MCSSL's Chief TERMINATOR.

And the summer hasn't even started yet…

The season wasn't even underway yet…

268. Senior Softball Snippet: *Who said we ain't got no culture in the MCSSL?* In a pre-season practice game, Ray Forlano of the Mystics put on quite a display of how senior softball is a patron of the arts and sciences, so appropriately noted by opposing Maniacs manager Steve Czyzewicz and assistant Vince Torno. It was a high pop fly to short field. Ray called for it. It seemed forever for the ball to come down. Long enough for Steve and Vince to analyze the play. They marveled at the science being applied by Ray as he traversed the field by initially applying the Pythagorean Theorem, continuously adjusting his path to the ball using the cosine and co-tangent of the projected grid where the ball was anticipated to land, solved the equation and zeroed in on the trajectory by making what Steve and Vince later determined to be, *"… one marvelous parabolic catch!*" But the play didn't end with the science. Ray further demonstrated his skills in the arts by performing an awe-inspiring pirouette as he deftly danced across the field keeping himself upright while tightly clutching the ball in his glove! Steve and Vince were so impressed by Ray's overall performance that they wanted the league to recognize just how much culture this league exudes from its active seniors. They're also suggesting that the Summer League Director change Ray's team's name to the *Mathematicians*.

269. Senior Softball Snippet: *Casey Stengel he ain't…* It was their first practice game of the season, and all the players were anxiously awaiting the start-up of the game after a long winter's nap. Georgie Hart arrived at the field to make his managerial debut as the new skipper of the Blue Division Mavericks. Georgie breathlessly ran from his car into the dugout three minutes before the game was scheduled to start. He posted the line-up on the fence. All the players quickly gathered around to see where they were positioned and where they were going to bat. It only took a moment for someone to point out, "Uh… Georgie? These first four guys in the batting order? Uh…they're not on our team." Georgie re-examined his line-up. "Well, they should be!"

And then the season officially started…

270. Senior Softball Snippet: *Rain and other delays in the MCSSL…* The MCSSL's director of all things safety, Jim Binsberger, was on hand for the opening day game, which pitted two Blue Division teams ready to go at 9:00 a.m. sharp. As in all previous seasons since Jim has been in this most important position, his safety briefing again made league history. This year, his presentation only lasted four innings.

271. Senior Softball Snippet: *Better study hard since it's on the test…* Some team members of the Maniacs hadn't yet received their new shirts as of opening day, so the shirts were brought along by the team manager for distribution. The remaining shirts were in a bag on the dugout bench. Several of the players, anxiously waiting to receive their brand new team jersey, asked, "How do we know which shirt is ours?" Vern Hunsberger was quick to respond, "You have to take a reading test first."

The Mavericks may be a new and different team, but the antics remain the same…

272. Senior Softball Snippet: *He-e-e-e's back…like a bad TV commercial that won't go away…* The ubiquitous John McCann of the Mavericks introduced himself to the Blue Division

his first time up at bat by uncharacteristically ripping a screaming line drive through the infielder's legs. John left the batter's box, took only one step, and commenced to fall flat on his face. John, not known for his fleet-footedness, looked like that senior on TV who has fallen and can't get up. He was easily thrown out at first base. Just for the record, the scoring in the book went like this: 6-8-7-4-2-1-3.

273. Senior Softball Snippet: *Ricky Henderson or Maury Wills he ain't…* Jim Binsberger of the new Blue Division Mavericks was right back in the headlines of the young season. Jim hit a ball and started his trek to first base. Seeing it looked like a sure out, he stopped. The ball was muffed. Jim started to run again, then saw that he was still going to be thrown out, so stopped again. The ball was muffed a second time, so Jim commenced to run yet again. He was thrown out by, "… this much." A few innings later, Jim was on first and was called out for leaving the base too soon before the batter took a swing and missed. After the game, Jim's teammates were still debating which was worse – Jim being on first base or not being on first base. But they did agree that either way, the result was the same.

274. Senior Softball Snippet: *Do you have a square to spare?* Here's another episode from the Mavericks bench. Bill Bogel made a terrific running catch of a fly ball. Well, maybe not so terrific, but a catch nonetheless. The ball hit his glove, but Bill began to lose control as he juggled the ball up and down. Somehow, the ball ended up getting trapped between his legs all the way around toward his backside. Somehow, Bill managed to squeeze tight enough to keep the ball from falling to the ground as he reached around and grabbed it. The out was declared. When Bill returned to the dugout, his teammates tossed him a roll of toilet paper. Bill, of course, dropped it.

275. Senior Softball Snippet: *The Mavericks McCann just won't go away…* Here's one that could only happen to John McCann. Not knowing where to bury John next, team manager Georgie Hart decided to stick him in center field, rationalizing that he would at least be

surrounded by other players who could "pick him up", not to mention that John wouldn't be pitching. Well… a hard hit ground single came roaring up the middle. John proceeded to mis-play the ball as it went right through his legs. John scurried to retrieve the ball. By this time, of course, the batter was tearing around the bases. In his zeal to get the ball back to the cut-off man as quickly as possible, John's pitching instincts kicked in. He "zinged" an underhand throw. It exceeded the twelve foot arc limit by at least thirty feet and ended up somewhere out in right field to the astonishment of everyone, especially the right fielder. When the play was over, John had set yet another scoring record in the MCSSL. The scorebook recorded "E-8 & E-1" on the same player on the same play.

276. Senior Softball Snippet: *It's a Mavericks miracle!* Angelo Malizia is certainly a legend around the MCSSL, but on opening day of the 2017 summer season Angelo announced that he was a "miracle". No explanation was sought and none was offered. But Angelo went on to prove it. Midway through the game with a runner on third, a slow grounder was hit back to mound. The runner broke for home. Pitcher Gordy Detweiler fielded the ball and flipped it underhanded to his catcher, Angelo, standing on home plate. Angelo caught the ball, dropped it, picked it up, but dropped it again, falling forward from the plate. The ball rolled outward, but Angelo performed a miracle by keeping his foot on the plate as he stretched beyond his limit to retrieve the ball in his hand. The runner was declared out. Maybe not Angelo, but certainly the out was declared a miracle.

Enough of the Mavericks… here's what else happened opening week…

277. Senior Softball Snippet: *For better or for worse in the MCSSL…* The league for the very first time tried out a new uniform approach by ordering reversible shirts for the Red Division players. The shirts were pretty nifty, white on one side for the home team, blue on the other for the away team. It was a great idea, but there was just one minor problem. The shirt sizes ran small from the manufacturer. As everyone was trying on his new shirt, the comments were flying around like batting practice balls. Here are a few of the better ones:

Gary Krause: "I think they mixed up the order. These must be little leaguer's shirts."

Don Petrille: "It looks like these shirts came designed with sewn-in pot bellies."

Mike DeStefano: "I must have put on some weight since I ordered this shirt size. Do I look it?"

Jim Marple: "Do I have to wear this? I can't move my arms."

Bob Zolad: "It's choking me!" *Wayne Bailey*: "You have it on backwards, you dummy!"

Steve Alligood: "Good thing I ordered XXL or else I wouldn't be able to get it over my head."

278. Senior Softball Snippet: *If you won, you had fun…* The following letter-to-the-editor appeared in the local newspaper:

"TO THE EDITOR: In a closely fought Red Division game, the Musials were trailing the Mazeroskis by a run. In the top of the fifth, the Musials had a runner on first with nobody out. The next batter hit a sharp two hopper to third where the pride of Pottsville, PA, our own George Schreader, fielded the ball cleanly and then turned and took two steps toward third, intending to step on third for the force out. BUT, after the second step and most of his teammates yelling (cursing) at him, George realized there was no runner going to third. The agile third baseman then stopped on a dime, pivoted 180 degrees, threw out the runner at second, and damaged his hamstring muscle in the process. Everyone agreed that HAD there been a runner going to third, George would have made a great play. To the delight of the Musials, he did turn a sure 5 to 4 to 3 double play into a force at second. George gamely stayed in the game and limped to the parking lot after his Mazeroskis hung on for the win, determined to not let his wife know HOW he sustained another injury. A mind is a terrible thing to waste. SINCERELY, MIKE DESTEFANO, MCSSL ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER."

279. Senior Softball Snippet: *MCSSL's Snippetmaster considering harassment charges against multiple league members…* Following is my response to the above "letter-to-the-editor":

"TO THE EDITOR: I would not have considered bringing harassment charges against certain members of this league had it not been for the fact that when I got home, a gaggle of reporters were in my driveway talking to my wife, who by this time, had learned about my re-injuring my hammie. As a result, I now also have a new injury in the form of a sore butt as a result of the chewing out. I tried my best to fill the shoes of our stellar third basemen, Gary Krause, who was temporarily sent off to the minors for re-habilitation in some senior tournament. During the entire game I was being harassed by individuals whom I will name here. They are Chuck Favata and Mike DeStefano (instigator-in-charge) of the opposing Musials team, and Jimmy Flynn, Alex Stanish, Ray Forlano, Steve Czyzewicz, and Bob Zolad, who were all in the stands waiting to play the next game. Their constant jeers, which were focused on my inability to fill Krause's spikes, totally upset the rhythm and mental aspect of my game. By the fifth inning, I was a total wreck at third. I still don't know how I managed to field that blazing hot grounder that started the whole thing. I am going out on a limb here. I believe this obvious harassment stems not from softball, but from golf, as all seven of the above named individuals are golfing buddies. Well, at least they used to be. They just can't get over my getting another hole-in-one last week and they didn't! RESPECTFULLY, THE SNIPPETMASTER."

280. Senior Softball Snippet: *MCSSL Snippetmaster's manager and teammate both speak out…* Following the flak instigated by Assistant Commissioner Mike DeStefano, the Red Division manager of the Mazeroskis, Bob Weaver, was asked by reporters to comment about Schreader for the official record. Bob said, "Look… leave the guy alone. He's old. He's sixty-eight. He's not a spring rooster anymore. He had a senior brain fart on the field. Someday *all* of us will experience that. I had to put somebody on third since Gary Krause left us hanging out to dry by gallivanting off to re-habilitate in some senior tournament. Hey… we won the game. A win is a win in the MCSSL, right? What more do you want me to say?" Reporters continued to badger Weaver for additional comments. Weaver was later overheard saying, "Look, we're off the record here, right? What was I supposed to do? The guy is the Red Division Director. If I didn't bury him somewhere on the field and instead benched him, he'd probably fire me as a manager. I can't afford that sort of embarrassment. Besides, Krause will be back soon to vacuum up the rest of the balls down third for the rest of the season." Bill Bott, the Mazeroskis all-terrain

second baseman and fellow teammate (along with being implicated in the alleged hole-in-one the previous week), was also asked to comment. His comment was, “No comment.”

Stick around, the season has only started; there is a whole lot more to come…