

*A Narrative History of the  
Montgomery County Senior Softball League  
A Continuing History – 2016*

**THE BOYS ARE BACK FOR MORE IN 2016**

Don't think for one moment that these "Boys of Autumn" ever went away after the summer of 2015 ended. Senior softball in the *Montgomery County Senior Softball League* has become so much more than just a sport. It has become an enduring event in the lives of senior softball enthusiasts of Montgomery and the surrounding counties. And looking forward to 2016, it was everything good.

The 2015 MCSSL season came to an unwanted end by the close of October. As in all years previous, not one of the boys wanted to see it end, because it heralded the finale of the summer ball season and the start of a long winter's nap. But nobody paid any attention to that dumb analogy. It was nothing more than a break in the action to heal the superficial wounds of a past season overshadowed by more fun than any of these senior boys imagined could ever have happened to them after the age of sixty. It was more than just fun... it was senior life at its best. And the start-up of winter ball was just around the corner.

**STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION**

The league jumped right into the planning stage for the upcoming 2016 season and held the annual Board of Directors meeting at the KC Prime Restaurant in Warrington, PA on November 11, 2015, with thirty-one league officers and managers in attendance. A number of agenda items were presented that included a recap of the season's history, planning for the holiday party, the Treasurer's and Audit Committee's reports, recommendation for a new MCSSL website, and the suggestions review process. This year the suggestion process, provided for in the Bylaws, seemed to reach a new height, as 48 suggestions were submitted by the membership. All suggestions were reviewed and discussed, a few of them being "bundled" into

one proposal based upon the subject (e.g. thirteen submissions suggested the creation of a new supplemental division for a higher level of competitive play.) As always, the Bylaws prescribe that a two-thirds margin is needed for a proposal to pass. This year, the significant changes voted to go into effect for the 2016 season were: continuing to hold an annual one-pitch tournament; process to select opposing player(s) to fill team shortages; creation of a new ability-driven supplemental division on a trial basis; creation of a Hall of Fame. The creation of the new division was the foremost topic of discussion, and passed by the narrowest of margins. (More will be discussed on the Hall of Fame and the supplemental division expansion further below.)

The recommendation to develop a new website was accepted, as the league's webmaster, Larry O'Malley, stepped down after creating and maintaining the MCSSL site for eleven years. The Board approved moving to commercial league management software and an associated website from League Athletics at an annual cost. Jim Marple and Joe Juba will maintain the new website, which went online in December, 2015.

### **THE INDOOR WINTER LEAGUE SEASON**

The popularity of the MCSSL's winter indoor level of play was never more evident than during the 2016 season. Gordy Detweiler continued as the director, and this year had every reason to expand the play to nine teams, as ninety-six players had signed up. The standard league entrance fee remained at an even \$100. With the league now at nine teams, Gordy had to make arrangements with the Bucks/Mont Indoor Sports Center to allow the league an additional day. In addition to playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays (four time slots at 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12 noon, and 1:30 p.m.), the league was able to procure a 9:00 a.m. time slot on Wednesday mornings to allow for the one additional game, but was unable to re-arrange the whole nine-team schedule over the three days because of the facility's commitment to other sports activity groups. The winter schedule also had the teams slated for doubleheaders to balance out the season schedule. Old Man Winter cooperated this year, as only one Wednesday morning game had to be canceled due to inclement weather, which was later made up at the end of March. All in all, it was another great season of winter softball, and Gordy as usual made it all happen.

## **THE NEW MCSSL HALL OF FAME**

One of the more significant items that overwhelmingly passed was the suggestion to establish a MCSSL Hall of Fame. Following the meeting, a task group was formed consisting of Commissioner John Frantz, Commissioner Emeritus Dennis Lapin, and Ben Modica to develop the structure and process proposal for the Hall of Fame. The concept of the HOF is that it provides for the league membership to recognize fellow members who have unselfishly given of their time and talents for the betterment of the league. Selection is based upon overall achievements, contributions, and overall demonstration of the league's ideal "*If you had fun, you won.*" The league would establish a seven-person Nomination Committee consisting of the League Historian as chairperson, three at-large members, and after the first year, three members who have been previously selected to the HoF. League members would nominate prospective HOF candidates each year during March. To be eligible for nomination, a person must have been a league member for a minimum of seven years (does not have to be continuous.) Nominations that are submitted on the official form must include reasons why, and the accomplishments of the individual being nominated. The Nomination Committee would then consider the qualifications of the candidates, and by a majority vote determine the qualifying nominees, which would be limited to five individuals annually. The Nomination Committee would then submit those names to the Board of Directors for a vote. A candidate must have at least 70% of the Board vote to be inducted. Inductees would be announced each year at the May picnic, followed by induction into the Hall of Fame at the annual family picnic in June

In early April, 2016, Commissioner John Frantz sent out the detailed plan for the Hall of Fame process to the Board of Directors, asking for each member's acceptance or rejection of the plan. The plan was accepted and was immediately implemented. The Nomination Committee for this first year consisted of League Historian George Schreader as chairperson, George Hart, Bob Wellington, and John Lancaster as the three members-at-large specially selected by the chairperson; Commissioner John Frantz, Assistant Commissioner Mike DeStefano, and Secretary Jim Marple served as the first year HOF representatives until such time as future Hall of Famers can join the rank.

In mid-May, notice went out to the league membership that the nomination process would be open for two weeks. The Nomination Committee received the first batch of nominees,

which totaled fourteen individuals. All of the nominees certainly qualified, but the committee was limited to offering five names for the ballot. By consensus, the following league members were placed on the very first ballot: Gordy Detweiler, Dennis Lapin, Manny London, Stan Schwartz, and Vic Zoldy. In early June, the Board members voted either for or against induction into the Hall of Fame. All five received over 70% in favor.

At the family picnic on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the first class of MCSSL Hall of Fame inductees were honored. Historian George Schreader announced the inductees and read their many accomplishments and contributions to the league. Commissioner John Frantz then presented each of the inductees with a prestigious engraved trophy. In the absence of Vic Zoldy (who resides in Florida), the award was proudly accepted by Joe Juba. In accordance with the process now established for the Hall of Fame, the nine individuals who did not make the initial 2016 ballot automatically remained on the nominees list for the next two years.

### **THE SOCIAL SCENE – MANNY LONDON STYLE**

Never to be outdone by anyone on the planet, Social Director Manny London seemed to outdo himself starting right at the close of the 2015 season. What an end-of-season picnic Manny put together in late October, 2015. Fabulous food, outstanding door prizes, wonderful entertainment senior style. Of the many highlights, the one most memorable was Mark Rosen's singing rendition of a not-so-original John McCann composition of Sinatra's "My Way," which was a tribute to Manny London's announcement that he was retiring as a player. Whether everybody actually believed it or not, Manny was given a heartfelt sendoff by all the gang. Of course, in the back of everyone's mind was a little doubt that Manny was actually going to quit playing. And of course, Manny decided not to retire after all and showed up in the winter indoor league not only as a player, but manager as well. And yes, he showed up to play in the 2016 summer season too!

But before that even happened, Manny pulled off one spectacular Holiday Party in early December, 2015, once again held at the Church of the Messiah Parish House in North Wales. The food and drinks as usual were fantastic, but it was the evening's entertainment that highlighted the affair. Manny had arranged for a gentleman named Jeff Krick, who is a renowned

Elvis Tribute Artist, and who put on one terrific show for over a hundred league members and their “dates” for the evening. The show was followed by an evening of dancing, and it certainly was one of the more memorable parties ever held by the MCSSL. Another triumph by Mr. and Mrs. London that attendees will never forget.

Winter turned to spring and then to summer. The first party of the new 2016 season kicked off at the annual Team Picnic & Photo Day gathering on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the School Road Park pavilion. As usual, Manny London outdid himself yet again. One of the highlights of the day was the presentation of the league’s first book publication of *The History of the Montgomery County Senior Softball League 1999 to 2014*, which was made available to the league membership for a “donation” of ten dollars to help offset the cost of publication.

Attending a minor league baseball game each year has become one of the anticipated highlights of the social season. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, over a hundred league members and guests made the trek up to see a Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs game. As expected, it was a fun-filled evening for all who attended. The highlight of the evening came when one of the league members got to throw out the first ball. Commissioner John Frantz held an interesting group contest back on the day of the team photo picnic by gathering all the players who were “throwing their names in the hat” to receive the honor of throwing out the first ball. John’s little “birthday word game” was quite clever, and when the dust settled, Curt Fields had won the contest and represented the MCSSL on the mound to the cheers of all.

The annual family summer picnic came next on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Once again, a number of the boys played an exhibition game for the family members before the food was served. It was a perfect weather afternoon and early evening, and Manny London again provided great summer fare. The highlight of the evening, of course, was the induction of the first class of MCSSL Hall of Fame members.

The end-of-season picnic at the School Road Park facility saw yet another fun-filled day for the membership. The weather cooperated, and well over a hundred league members gathered for the season closing event. Commissioner John Frantz delivered a well-thought out speech emphasizing the continuing successes of the organization and the promise of more to come in the near future. John thanked all those league members who gave so much time and effort to create

those successes. The new Hall of Fame members were presented with a custom MCSSL baseball hat with HOF embroidery on the side. Praises again went out to Joe Juba's grounds crew – Tommy Corcoran, Tom Dougherty, Jeff Jordan, Tommy Lane, and Dan Brady – who all did a spectacular job each and every game day preparing the field for play, sometimes in simply awful conditions! Entertainment, as usual, was provided by the league's resident sage, Mark Rosen, who presented some rather "ambiguous" and mostly comical awards to the league's chosen jesters. On the more serious side, two league members were honored this year by receiving the Vic Zoldy award, which is awarded to those who exemplify the league's mission statement and in recognition of efforts to sustain and improve the league. This year's co-recipients were Safety Director Jim Binsberger and League Historian George Schreader.

### **LEAGUE EXPANSION TRIAL**

With the trial expansion of the league back during the 2015 season to establish an "over-70's" division of play, the league decided to continue the practice into the 2016 season based upon membership response. (A few modifications would later result to this existing division of play.) As presented above, many league members expressed a desire to also supplement regular league play by expanding to an "ability-driven" division to create league parity for other players who were not eligible for over-70's play. The vote was favorable to move ahead to create this new division of play, passing by the necessary margin. Commissioner John Frantz appointed Historian George Schreader to chair a specially selected committee of five league members to formulate a strategic and tactical plan before the end of December for submission to the league officers to review. In addition to George, the committee consisted of Rich Server, Bill Durso, Tom Lane, and Vince Torno. The plan was submitted before the end of December and further reviewed by the Board. After a few modifications, the plan was then forwarded to the Board of Directors to review for their acceptance or rejection. Again, there was a two-thirds margin of acceptance. After additional compromises were made to bring the plan closer to keeping in line with the league philosophy, notification was sent out to all league members that the MCSSL for 2016 was going to be re-aligned as three divisions that would be named RED, WHITE, and BLUE.

The WHITE Division would continue as the core of the MCSSL and remain unchanged, consisting of the same ten teams and rostered players, and would continue playing the exact same Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday schedule. The RED Division would become the new ability-driven supplemental level of play, and the BLUE Division would be the new designation for last year's Over-70's level of play. Both supplemental levels of play would be scheduled for Mondays, the BLUE Division having the 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. time slots, and the RED Division having the 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. slots. The major change this year to the BLUE Division would be that all players in the league, regardless of age, would be afforded the opportunity to play. The RED Division, of course, would also be open to all players regardless of age.

By early February, 2016, the league began the application process for the RED Division, notifying all league members of the opportunity to apply. In addition, new players to the league, including those on the waiting list (who had all previously been evaluated as to their potential ability) were invited to apply to either the RED or BLUE Divisions even if they were still on the waiting list for the WHITE Division. Once all the applications for the RED Division were received and the cut-off date was reached, committee chair George Schreder then selected four member applicants to the RED Division to serve on the evaluation committee to construct the teams. The committee members were Tom Lane, Bob Weaver, Wayne Bailey, and Billy Mallozzi. The committee established the criteria for the evaluation of an individual based upon his ability to hit, throw, field, run, and his overall performance skill to compete at a higher level within a margin of safety. The committee discussed setting up a three-team division consisting of 14 players each, and a four-team division consisting of 13 players each. In the best interest of the league, it was decided to establish a four-team division.

The committee next went through the process of screening through the applicants to establish the top 52 players based upon overall skill. Players were selected by group consensus. Next, players were sorted into "prime" positions (pitchers, shortstops, third basemen, outfielders, utility players, speedsters, left-handed hitters, right side fielders.) The four teams were then set up to ensure team parity, balancing each team based upon known players' performance skills. Again, the teams were balanced by consensus. Once the committee felt that the teams were equal, the four new managers (Tom Lane, Barry Bintliff, Steve Alligood, and Tim Smith) were

invited to review their team, review the list of applicants that were not selected for RED Division play, and negotiate any “trades” as long as the committee agreed that team parity remained in place. The four new teams were named the “Magnums,” the “Marksmen,” the “Meteors,” and the “Mariners” in keeping with league tradition. A season schedule was then set up spanning twenty-one Mondays available for play. Over the first twenty Mondays, each team would play an equal number of home and away games, and an equal number of 12 noon and 1:30 p.m. time slots. In addition, for the first season as a trial, the RED Division would play single games in a twelve-block of Mondays, and one doubleheader in each of two four-block Mondays. During each four-block, one team would be off on one Monday. The doubleheader concept proved to be unpopular, and the schedule was later revised to go to all single games at the end of the season.

The RED Division also implemented a few minor rules modifications for pinch runners, playing time, and vacancies. RED Division teams field only eleven players. All players must bat and run from home plate. Once a batter reaches base safely, a pinch runner may be assigned at the discretion of the manager with the caveat that there is no restriction on how many times an individual runs, with the exception that he may only run once per inning. If a player is ever relieved of running during a game, that player may not be again used to pinch run. No player may sit out more than one inning in a row unless that player agrees to do so. When vacancies occur, the managers were given several options under the rules modifications, all options requiring mutual agreement of the opposing manager. Midway into the season, a fifth option was established. Since the popularity of RED Division play had grown, a number of league players who had not previously applied for play were given the opportunity to place their name on a RED Division Extra List. Being on the list did not guarantee play, but opened the option for a manager to “pick-up” a position player to fill a one-game vacancy or a long term vacancy.

RED Division play commenced on the first Monday following the WHITE Division opening week. The RED Division made one additional provision. On the twenty-first Monday at the end of the MCSSL season, the final games were at the discretion of the four managers, who opted for the ever-popular one-pitch competition. The four teams were seeded one through four according to their “self-proclaimed” season record (the Purple-team Mariners first, the Maroon-team Marksmen second, the Gold-team Meteors third, and the White-team Magnums fourth.) The double-elimination competition began at the usual 12:00 noon time slot. The first team to be

eliminated was the Magnums team. The Marksmen team was eliminated next. In the final game, the Mariners team prevailed over the Meteors team to grab the “bragging” rights of being the best. All agreed that the RED Division trial season was a success and, with a few modifications, all hoped it would continue next season.

### **ANNUAL ONE-PITCH TOURNAMENT**

It continues to be one of the most popular events of the summer season. Again, the special committee consisting of Tom Lane, Bob Weaver, and Jim Marple put together a great event, which was held on Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> with great weather conditions. Jeff Jordan did a superb job preparing the field for the tournament. Manny London and Cheryl Marple kept the tournament moving and did the scorekeeping for the ranking system. This year, enough league players signed up to establish six teams, managed by Billy Mallozzi, Bruce Williams, Barry Bintliff, Ray Forlano, Bob Weaver, and Jimmy Kotz. Each team would play a minimum of two five-inning games in the preliminary round. The field would then be paired down to three teams for the semi-final round based upon wins/losses, runs scored for/against. A system of tie-breakers is used to determine the winners. The championship game is played between the top-ranked team and the semi-final winner.

Team Mallozzi, Team Bintliff, and Team Forlano were eliminated in the preliminary round. Team Williams won the semi-final game against Team Weaver. In the championship game, Team Williams played the top-ranked Team Kotz. It was a back-and-forth game, but Team Williams pulled off an impressive 8 to 5 win to have their team name put on the league’s One-Pitch Tournament Trophy.

One additional highlight of the annual tournament is that in addition to being a fun-filled day for the league members, it also serves as a fund-raising event to help worthwhile causes in the Hatfield area. The league is very appreciative of the support it has received from the township over the years, and last year’s tournament began a grand gesture of giving back to the community, which it will continue doing in the foreseeable future. Donations this year totaling \$561 were collected during the event. But it didn’t stop there. Additional later donations were made by non-attending league members and their families. Long time league member, Ben Fiore,

sent out a call to all the golfers in the league asking them to “clean out the garage” of all used golf balls. Ben collected the balls, sold them to a local driving range, and donated the money back to the charity event. At the end of October at the township meeting, the final total of \$1,250 was donated and presented to the Hatfield Police Benevolent Fund by Treasurer Stan Schwartz and Hatfield Township Liaison Bud Hyndman. A special thanks went out to all those league members and supporters who generously contributed to this worthy cause.

### **ANOTHER SPECTACULAR CHARITY EVENT**

Move over Phillies Ball Girls, the “Boys for All Seasons” are back in town! With last year’s spectacular success of the charity event that pitted the tremendously-talented (and youthful!) Philadelphia Phillies Ball Girls against the Travel Team Marauders of the MCSSL (never mind the fact that Gordy Detweiler pitched for the young ladies’ team last year and even got a win), the league invited the ladies back to Hatfield in 2016 for a rematch. If we thought last year was a success, this year it was even more spectacular. Two exciting nine-inning games! Gordy once again was on the mound for the young ladies and pitched two outstanding games. These girls could hit, run, and throw as good as any teams the Marauders had played all season. In the first game, it looked like a certain victory for the young ladies, but somehow the boys managed to squeak by with a win in the bottom of the ninth inning by a score of 13 to 12. But in the second game, the boys got hammered and lost 9 to 6. There were two memorable highlights to the games.

The first most memorable highlight of the game was a play at the plate. Tommy Corcoran was on second. A base hit to right field... the league’s premier speedster rounded third and headed for home. In any game in the MCSSL, there isn’t a player who can possibly throw out Tommy in this situation. The ladies’ right fielder fired a laser shot to home, getting Tommy out by several steps! The other most memorable highlight was Gordy’s brilliant performance at the plate. He kept pounding out hit after hit, and it wasn’t until the second game when the boys finally managed to get Gordy to fly out. What a performance! But it was all for the Phillies charities, and this year the game raised a total of \$600, which was proudly presented to the Phillies Ball Girls super team. Gordy Detweiler, of course, was proudest of all.

### **THE TRAVEL TEAM MAURADERS**

The league's Travel Team, Gordy Detweiler's marvelous Marauders, kicked off the 2016 season by taking a trip way out to Palmyra at the end of January to be hosted by the Harrisburg gang, which was preparing for a trip to Florida where they had qualified for a major senior tournament. The Marauders played well, but not well enough, as they lost both games by one run each, the second game in the bottom of the ninth inning. Gordy wanted a rematch, and the Marauders returned to Palmyra in early March. The Harrisburg guys had just come home from Florida with an impressive showing, as they had won the "Over 75" tournament by beating teams from all over the country. Their bats hadn't cooled down in Pennsylvania's winter weather, as they again trounced the Marauders in both games by scores of 12 to 5, and 13 to 9.

The summer travel season started off with hosting Allentown at Hatfield, and throughout the summer the Marauders played both formidable Allentown division gangs on six occasions, compiling six wins and four losses. In other travel team games, the Harrisburg boys continued to dominate, as the Marauders went winless against them right up until the final doubleheader of the 2016 season at Hatfield in early October. Then things changed. Gordy's gang exploded in the season finale, trouncing the Burgers 23-9 in the first game, 19-6 in the second game to bring the summer season record up to .500. Other games against West Chester, Philadelphia, and Schuylkill County, both home and away, enabled the Marauders to finish the summer travel team season with a total overall record of 14 wins and 14 losses.

### **PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE'S HISTORY BOOK**

It finally came to fruition. The original venture to write a history of the MCSSL started back in February of 2014. Joe Juba initiated the project, and enlisted the help of resident published writers George Schreader and John McCann, with the additional assistance of Mike DeStefano as advisor, to help construct the narrative of the league's history. Little did anyone know that it would turn into a major undertaking and result in the publication of an entire book.

There was more information, more stories, more photos, more memories than anyone thought conceivable.

The history was first published on the league's website late in the fall of 2014, but it wasn't until the winter of early 2016 that things began to come together for the planned publication of the history in hard-copy book form. After contracting with the services of a print-on-demand publisher (DiggyPOD, Inc.), Joe Juba and George Schreder dedicated their time over the winter months to typeset, edit, and prepare the galley for publication. Joe and George sorted through hundreds of personal photographs and newspaper and magazine photographs gathered over the years of the league members in action, and were able to digitize a number of these photos for inclusion in the book. Over thirty of the very best photos ultimately were included in the book that best told a visual story of the evolution of the league. With expert assistance from John McCann, who wrote the back-of-the-book segment, and Jim Marple, who designed the very attractive book cover, the history was ready to go. Finally, after many hours of work, the one hundred and thirty-six page colorful book was published in May of 2016. The total cost of publication, which included an initial supply of 150 books, was absorbed by the league treasury. Complimentary books were presented to the league's eleven principal sponsors, plus a few additional copies for a few very special past members, among them, founder Vic Zoldy. Since the book was primarily printed up for distribution to league members, past and present, the league asked for a donation of \$10 from each member wanting a personal copy of the book to help offset the high publication cost. Distribution of the book commenced at the league's first picnic in mid-May.

### **SAFETY ALWAYS FIRST**

The league is always moving forward on the issue of player safety, and midway through the summer season, yet another safety-related measure was taken to further prevent potential injury to pitchers. The league purchased a roll-up pitching screen, which is positioned in front of the rubber for the purpose of protecting the pitcher when hard hit balls are projected toward the mound area. The purpose of the screen is to give the pitcher a direct refuge by moving behind the screen immediately after the ball is pitched. The protective screen ensures the ball does not strike

the pitcher before he can react to a hard batted pitch. The pitching screen was first implemented for use during batting practice, but in late in September, Commissioner John Frantz mandated that the screen would be used for a two week trial period during games, requesting managers give back feedback on how or if the presence of the screen has any impact on the level of play. After the trial period, the possible use of the screen on a mandatory basis was evaluated. By the end of the summer season, it was decided that the continuing use of the screen would be tabled, and would be put on the agenda for further evaluation and discussion at the Board of Directors meeting following the conclusion of the 2016 summer season.

There was one additional safety-related issue that arose during the course of the season that initiated a dialogue among the league membership, and ultimately emerged for future consideration. With the continuing growth and continuing success of senior softball in the MCSSL, the league is enjoying the positive results of players staying around the league at a later age than even they may have anticipated. The ages of players now spans from members in their early sixties to a few approaching age eighty or even beyond. As skills levels slowly diminish with a person's age, competitive abilities sometimes cannot keep up with the pace of standard league play, especially that of some of the leagues "young" players. It was one of the motivating factors that resulted in the creation of the BLUE Division two years ago, which was a more "relaxed" style of play that scheduled a more leisurely supplemental game once per week.

A number of members who committed to the BLUE Division over the previous two seasons were expressing interest in wanting to prioritize playing two games per week in the BLUE Division and less in the WHITE Division. Near the end of summer, Commissioner John Frantz put out a survey to the membership soliciting feedback on the topic of an individual's preference to either play more games at a higher ability-driven level or at a more relaxed level of play. The survey results indicated that a significant number of league members were tending to prefer more play at the level enjoyed by those playing supplemental games in the current BLUE Division. As a result of the survey, near the end of the 2016 summer season, the league was looking to formulate a proposal to restructure the league for the upcoming 2017 season that would be based upon two core divisions instead of the existing one core division. A core BLUE Division (two games per week) would be structured with team members preferring a relaxed level of play, and a core WHITE Division (two games per week) would be structured with those

players preferring a more competitive style of play. The league membership was encouraged to submit their ideas through the annual formal suggestion process. Any further movement regarding the restructuring of the league, of course, would depend upon the future course of action by the Board of Directors at the annual post-season meeting. There would be more to come on this topic as the next page of MCSSL history turned toward the 2017 season.

### **ANOTHER FUN-FILLED SEASON COMES TO AN END**

... or more accurately, just a short hiatus before it all starts back up again. All things totaled, the 2016 summer season was yet another spectacular success for the MCSSL. A few unfortunate injuries were incurred, but the league took all the proper steps toward making league play as safe as possible. All games were cancelled on at least six occasions due to the excessive heat index, and about as many times due to rainouts. Once again, we can't emphasize enough how much Joe Juba's field maintenance team of Tommy Corcoran, Danny Brady, Jeff Jordan, Tom Dougherty, and Tommy Lane did one spectacular job of preparing the field each and every day that a game was scheduled! These guys are the best, and it just goes to show again how dedicated the membership of this league is when it comes to volunteering and to making each continuing year a better success than the year before.

The 2016 season came to a heartbreaking end with the close of the end-of-season picnic. You could see it in the eyes of all the guys when the last vestige of the summer season faded from the picnic tables. Was that a few tears we saw as they all walked away? No way! There is never any crying in this league. Because it never actually ends. We're just taking a short break for the holidays. We'll ALL be back...