

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 SUMMER SEASON

*Baseball and softball, they say, are games of statistics. While the **Montgomery County Senior Softball League** does not keep individual statistics, we do, however, recognize the outstanding accomplishments and notable events that keep us all brimming with pride. Here are some of the things that have occurred or that have been accomplished by players and teams that make for fond memories in the season that has passed.*

The 2016 Summer Season

- Wednesday, May 11th, 2016 – *Puttin' on the hurt...* It was early in the season, but it was still a major win for the Majors. They soundly beat up on the previously undefeated Marshals by pounding out hit after hit after hit, scoring four 5-run innings to hand the Marshals a 26-1 loss. The Marshals scored their lone run in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs.
- Thursday, 12th, 2016 – The Maulers pulled off the first triple play of the season against the Mavericks. It was the classic play. The Pumpkins had the first two runners reach base, only to have the next batter hit a grounder right where he didn't want it to go. Hard ground ball to third baseman Tom Wuerstle, who tagged third, fired a strike to middle fielder Roger Burbink covering second, who completed the play firing a strike to first baseman Jimmy Kotz.
- Friday, September 2nd, 2016 – The Travel Team Marauders were invited to Allentown to play an evening doubleheader with the “RED” team, the Allentown travel team equivalent of the MCSSL's Blue Division level of team play. Gordy Detweiler's guys turned in one stellar performance. Excellent pitching, great hitting, and superb fielding resulted in an almost perfect evening of softball competition for the Marauders. They won the first game 11 to 1, and capped off a 10 to 0 win under the lights in the second game.

- Thursday, September 15th, 2016 – The Maulers at it again! Another triple play, this time against the Mustangs. In the third inning with runners on first and second, a hard grounder to third baseman Bill Durso set up the classic 5-4-3 round-the-horn triple play. Bill flipped to Mike DeStefano covering second base, who replayed a perfect throw to Jimmy Kotz covering first base.
- Friday, October 7th, 2016 – The Travel Team Marauders finally got even with the Big Bombers from Harrisburg. They hadn't beaten the Burgers all year, starting way back in February and carrying over into the summer. Gordy's gang, however, ripped into the Burger gang in both games. The bats were exploding as the Hatfield boys won the first game 23-9, and then kept pounding the ball to win 19-6 in the second game. It was a great doubleheader victory, and it brought the Marauders' summer record up to an even .500 ball with a 14/14 win/loss record.
- Thursday, October 20th, 2016 – The last day of the season was a record-setting game for the Marshals sensational rookie second baseman, Terry Leach. The Mustangs were beating up on the Marshals pretty badly, but that didn't deter Terry from coming up to the plate in the bottom of the seventh keeping the hope alive. Terry had already hit for a single, a double, and a triple. With two outs, Terry ripped a ball into the right center field gap that got by the outfielders and rolled to the fence. With nothing to lose, Terry was waved around third base. In came the throw... SAFE at home! Terry ended the season with the only recorded feat of "hitting for the cycle" in the 2016 summer season – a single, a double, a triple, and a homer!
- *The Long Ball* – Hats off to all our guys who managed to sock a home run over the fence during regular or travel team league play at the Hatfield School Road Park field. They are: Bill Ambrulavage, Majors (3); Don Muir, Marshals (1); Ron Geib, Marvels (4); Joe Kelly, Mustangs, (1); Rich Server, Mongrels (1).

“It ain’t over ‘til it’s over!” – Yogi Berra

Here a few memorable games from our summer season that demonstrate why we have so much fun playing senior softball.

- Saturday, June 25th, 2016 – the Mauraders Travel Team for the second year in a row hosted a charity doubleheader against the incredibly talented (and incredibly young!) Phillies Ball Girls. With Gordy Detweiler pitching for the ladies, in the first game the guys were getting shelled and were soon down 12 to 3 going into the late innings. The boys slowly chipped away and came back, but still went into the bottom of the ninth one run down. Somehow, they managed to score two runs to pull out an amazing 13 to 12 come-from-behind victory.
- Tuesday, June 28th, 2016 – *Ray’s rookies rally to the rescue...* Marshals vs. Mongrels, another close game down to the wire. The Marshals were down three runs going into the bottom of the sixth, but were only able to manage two to come within on run. After retiring the Mongrels in the seventh on a few nifty plays, the top of the line-up came up to bat. Ray Forlano’s top-of-the-order line-up was loaded with rookies. With one out, Rookie Dave Linthicum ripped a single. With Dave on first, rookie Terry Leach ripped a triple down the right field line to drive in the tying run. Rookie Don Muir, batting clean-up, ripped a single up the middle to drive in the winning run. Ray was glowing with pride as his “youngsters” came through in the clutch to secure an impressive victory!
- Monday, August 1st, 2016 – The RED Division’s Marksmen of Tommy Lane were cruising along holding a solid 8 to 4 lead over Steve Alligood’s Magnums. Through the first six innings, the Magnums couldn’t put together a rally of any kind. But in the top of the seventh inning, the Magnum’s bats came alive and the Marksmen’s defense went cold. The Magnums turned the line-up over and scored an impressive eight runs, then shut out the Marksmen in the bottom of the seventh for an even more impressive 12 to 8 come-from-behind victory.

- Monday, October 10th, 2016 – The RED Division’s Marksmen of Tommy Lane turned the tide in their final regular season game against the Meteors of Timmy Smith. Down by two runs going into the bottom of the seventh, the Meteors retired the leadoff batter. The next two Marksmen batters reached base. Georgie Schreader ripped a shot down the left field line to score the tying runs. Once again, Butch Fisher became the Marksmen hero and ripped a liner into the gap to score Georgie all the way from first base with the winning run.

AND...

THE NUMBER ONE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON – Somewhere up there in the bleachers of heaven, Yogi Berra had to be watching this classic game between the leagues’ two founding teams, the Magics and the Marshals. And when the dust at Hatfield had settled, there is no doubt Yogi was grinning with pride from ear to ear watching a little “magic” happen as this trio of Magics old timers fulfilled his promise that, “... *it ain’t over ‘til it’s over.*”

- Wednesday, September 21st, 2016 – The Magics and the Marshals were locked in a typical game duel, trading the lead several times. In the top of the sixth inning, the Marshals finally got to pitcher Manny London and exploded for four runs to take a commanding three run lead, 9 to 6. They held the Magics scoreless in the bottom of the inning. The Marshals failed to pad their lead in the top of the last inning and the Magics came up to bat in the bottom of the seventh with their backs against the wall. With one out, two Magics runners managed to reach base. The Marshals confidence was growing, as pitcher Ray Forlano, one of the original founding league members, knew he was next going to face the bottom of the batting order. The next three guys in the Magics line-up were Enzo Vassalluzzo, and two of the league patriarchs, Pete Parisi and Manny London. Needing at least three runs to tie, it didn’t look good. But as we all know, miracles happen in this wonderful game. Enzo ripped a line shot to left center to load up the bases. Then came Pete. The excitement mounted, as the

Marshals shifted their fielders toward the left side, where Pete usually hits the ball. If only... and it happened! Pete ripped a line shot to the gap in right center and the bases cleared, tying the game at nine all. It was Pete's heroic moment, and the Magics bench went wild! A pinch runner came in for Pete as Manny London approached the plate. The winning run was on second. What happened next couldn't have been scripted any better. Some said this might have happened before way back in 1999. Ray Forlano's pitch to Manny London was ripped into right center field to drive in the winning run and give the Magics a come-from-behind 10 to 9 victory! Three "magical" heroes in one inning. It doesn't get any better than this in the MCSSL. And, yeah. We think for certain that Yogi was smiling up there.

BUT WAIT! THERE'S MORE...

NOT TO BE OUTDONE, WE'VE GOT "JUBA AT THE BAT" – Yogi thought all the "magic" was over until he stuck around for the next game. As Yogi found out, this band of Hatfield old timers is like a gang of "mavericks" because old softballers never fade away, they just keep getting game-winning hits. Yogi was beside himself when this happened...

- Wednesday, October 5th, 2016 – The Maulers faced another tough game against the Marshals, especially since the Maulers were short a few players and had to pick up two team members from the Mavericks. One of them was another league patriarch, Joe Juba. The game went back and forth, and when the bottom of the seventh came around, the boys were locked in a tie ball game. Remember "Casey at the Bat"? Things looked just as dismal for the Maulers that day. But with two outs, when the Hatfield dust settled yet again, there was Jimmy Kotz on second and Cliff Heizman hugging first. The youthful Steve Czyzewicz came up to the plate, and to the amazement of all, drew a walk to load up the bases. Juba, mighty Juba, was advancing to the plate! Well, let's skip all the hoopla. This ain't Mudville. This is the MCSSL! Joe wasted no time ripping a liner to right center to drive in the winning run and give the Maulers a spectacular bottom-of-the-seventh two-out victory over the Marshals. The smile still hasn't left Yogi's face. Joe Juba's either.