

Week of Monday, April 7, 2025

The Henderson County Senior Softball Association kicked off its 2025 travel season this past week. The season was scheduled to begin on Monday, April 7th, with the Lake Keowee Eagles traveling to Jackson Park to face the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers in the Clayton League opener. However, in a "good news, bad news" situation, the game was postponed due to inclement weather. The good news, of course, was that we received some badly needed rain to help combat the recent spate of forest fires. Naturally, the bad news was that we did not get to play the game. This series has been rescheduled to Monday, April 28th at Jackson Park.

While the Monday opener was postponed, the Henderson County 70+ mixed Sluggers did get to start their season with a trip to the new turf fields at Winged Deer Park in Johnson City, Tennessee, on Wednesday, April 9th. The mixed 70+ Sluggers are coached by Andy Hinds and were sponsored for these games by

Park Ford. Tri-Cities normally fields competitive teams, especially for home games, and this day was no different. In game one, Tri-Cities held a 3-0 lead after two innings of play. However, the mixed Sluggers battled back to take an 8-3 lead over the next three innings. Tri-Cities rallied late, but Henderson County held on to capture a 10-6 victory. Don Chambers was the winning pitcher for the Sluggers.

In game two, Tri-Cities was the visiting team, and again they took an early lead. Over the middle three innings, the Sluggers matched or exceeded the runs scored by Tri-Cities and narrowed the margin to 16-14. Unfortunately, the Sluggers would not score again while Tri-Cities put up six more runs to walk away with a 22-14 win. Don Chambers pitched well but suffered the loss on the mound. The Sluggers did not have a scorebook, so I do not have statistics to report from the games. I will list the players in attendance for the Sluggers: Andy Hinds, Gary Warren, Bud Bonnema, Roger Helm, Stan Steinberg, Don Chambers, Al Kmiecik, Gene Reiser, Bill Close, Bob Drew, Danny Davis, and Sid Hilker. Sid did bribe me with two candy bars to say that he was 2-2 in game one and caught a fly ball. Other than that, if memory serves me correctly, everyone contributed offensively with at least two hits and some getting as many as five hits over the two games. Fielding was above average for the most part, with a couple of diving stops turned in by Roger Helm at shortstop and Bud Bonnema up the middle. Unfortunately, there were a few costly errors that led to some Tri-Cities runs.

Next week, there are a couple of travel games on the docket for the league. On Monday, April 14th, Stan Steinberg will lead the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers

to the Parker Meadows Complex in Franklin, NC to battle the Franklin Older Bones in what will now be the opener for the Clayton 68+ League. On Wednesday,

April 16th, John Musser will manage the 60+ mixed Sluggers as they welcome the Upstate SC squad to Jackson Park. Admission is free and all are welcome.

The Henderson County Senior Softball League is always looking for new players age 50 and older (35 and older for ladies). Regular league games are normally played on Monday and Friday mornings at 9:30 on fields 8 and 9 at Jackson Park in Hendersonville. For additional information, call 828-606-8556 or go to Henderson County Senior Softball at <https://hcssoftball.com>.