

Week of Monday, April 14, 2025

The Henderson County Senior Softball Association had two teams in action this week. On Monday, April 14th, the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers, sponsored by **Hunter Automotive Group** and coached by Stan Steinberg, made the trip to Parker Meadows Complex in Franklin, NC to battle the Franklin Older Bones in the season opener for the Clayton League. It may have been the first games of the year for the Sluggers, but they were in mid-season form as they took a pair of comfortable wins over the Older Bones. In game one, Franklin scored a run in the top of the first inning, and that would prove to be their only lead all day. The Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.683, an on-base percentage of 0.698, and a slugging percentage of 1.146 in game one as they rolled to a 20-6 victory. David Keith took the win on the mound. Mark Hammer and Tim Epley led the offensive charge in game one as they each went 4-4. Although Mark and Tim were the only Sluggers to be perfect at the plate in the first game, they had plenty of help as seven of their teammates were only one out away from perfection. Jerry Austin was 3-4 with two doubles. Jim Zitney was 2-3 with a walk. Randy Bowman went 2-3 with a double, triple, and a walk. Bob Drew was 2-3 with a triple and a sacrifice fly. Gary Warren was 3-4 with a double, Gary Ayers was 2-3, and David Keith went 1-2 with a sacrifice fly.

As impressive as the Sluggers were in game one, they produced even better results in the second game. Henderson County rolled to a 28-14 flip-flop win and held the Older Bones scoreless over the last two innings. David Keith again picked up the victory on the mound. In game two, the Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.857, an on-base percentage of 0.860, and upped their slugging percentage to 1.214. Eight Henderson County batters were perfect in the second game: Scott Searle was 4-4 with a double, Jerry Austin went 4-4 with a double and a home run, Mark Hammer was again 4-4 with a double and a triple, Joe Fishleigh was 2-2 with a walk, Jim Zitney was 3-3 with a double and a walk, Gary Warren went 3-3 with a double, Gary Ayers was 3-3, and Stan Steinberg was 3-3. Four other Sluggers were one out away from perfection with Bob Drew going 3-4, Randy Bowman 2-3, Tim Epley 2-3 with a double and a triple, and David Keith hitting two doubles in a 2-3 outing. With the pair of wins, Henderson County is tied with North Georgia for the lead in the Clayton League after one week of play.

On Wednesday, April 16th, the Henderson County 60+ mixed Sluggers, sponsored by **Skip Sawyer State Farm Insurance** and coached by John Musser, welcomed the Upstate SC mixed 60+ squad to Jackson Park. In game one, Henderson County picked up a comfortable 17-7 victory over Upstate. Dwight Moore picked up the win on the mound. The mixed Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.625, an on-base percentage of 0.651, and a slugging percentage of 1.025 in the first game. Two Sluggers were perfect at the plate with Tom Welbourn going 4-4 with two triples and John Musser going 3-3. Seven other Slugger batters were only one out away from perfection: Bill Kane 2-3, Dwight Moore 2-3 with a walk, Kirk Hall 2-3 with a double, Frank Johnson 2-3 with a triple and a walk, Jeff Donde 2-3 with a double, Kristy Musser 2-3, and Rob Kennedy 2-3 with a double and a home run. In addition, Scot Webster stroked a home run in the game.

Game two proved to be much more competitive, but the Sluggers were able to pull out a 20-18 win over Upstate. John Musser pitched the first four innings with Dwight Moore coming in from the bullpen to close out the final three innings.

The Sluggers had a team batting average and an on-base percentage of 0.689 with a slugging percentage of 1.178 in game two. Four Henderson County batters were perfect at the plate in the second game: Frank Johnson was 4-4, Jeff Donde was 4-4 with three triples, Rob Kennedy went 4-4 with a double, and Scot Webster was also 4-4 with a double. Four other Sluggers were one out away from perfection: Bill Kane 3-4 with a double, John Musser 3-4 with a double and a triple, Kirk Hall 1-2, and Tom Welbourn with a triple and two home runs.

Next week, the Henderson County 68+ team will travel to Sunset Park in Greenville, SC, on Monday, April 21st, to face the Upstate SC squad for a pair of Clayton League games.

The Henderson County Senior Softball Association 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>.