

Week of Monday, April 21, 2025

The Henderson County Senior Softball Association had one travel team in action this week. The Henderson County 68+ Sluggers sponsored by **Hunter Automotive Group** and coached by Stan Steinberg traveled to Sunset Park in Greenville, SC on Monday, April 21st to battle the Upstate Joe's SC squad in Clayton League play. In game one, the Sluggers scored five runs in the first inning only to see Upstate come back and also put up five runs. Henderson County scored four runs in the top of the second inning, but again Upstate pushed across five runs. In the third frame, Henderson County only scored one run, but they held the home team scoreless. With the teams tied at 10-10, Henderson County would go on to score twelve runs over the next three innings while Upstate would score four in the fourth inning and then be shut out over the final three frames. The Sluggers ended up picking up a 22-14 flip-flop victory over Upstate. Don Ward was superb on the day, not only picking up the win on the mound but also batting 4-4 in each game. As a team, Henderson County produced a batting average of 0.714, an on-base percentage of 0.727, and a slugging percentage of 1.000 in the first game. As previously mentioned Don Ward was 4-4 but also Jerry Austin went 4-4 with two doubles and a triple and Stan Steinberg was 2-2 with a triple and a walk. These three perfect batters had help from their friends as nine other Sluggers came within one out of achieving perfection: Bob Drew 3-4, David Keith 2-3, Gary Ayers 2-3, Gary Warren 2-3 with a triple, Gene Reiser 2-3, Jim Zitney 2-3 with a double, Mark Hammer 3-4 with two doubles, Randy Bowman 1-2 with a walk, and Tim Epley 2-3 with a double.

In game two, the Sluggers took the lead in the bottom of the first and maintained it for the remainder of the game as they rolled to a 20-10 victory. Don Ward was again the winner on the mound. The Sluggers turned several double plays in keeping control over Upstate. The Sluggers had a team batting average of 0.692, an on-base percentage of 0.727, and a slugging percentage of 0.949 in the second game. Don Ward was again perfect at 4-4, along with Gene Reiser 2-2 with a walk, and Scott Searle 2-2 with two walks and a double. Eight of their teammates also achieved near perfection: Bob Drew 3-4, Gary Ayers 2-3, Gary Warren 2-3, Jerry Austin 3-4 with a double and a triple, Mark Hammer 2-3 with a double and a sacrifice fly, Randy Bowman 1-2 with a walk, Stan Steinberg 2-3 with a triple, and Tim Epley 2-3 with a double. With the sweep of Upstate, Henderson County stands alone atop the Clayton League standings as the only undefeated team remaining. At 4-0, the Sluggers are one game ahead of Rabun County.

There were three games on the schedule for next week, but the Monday game at Jackson Park between the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers and Lake Keowee Eagles has been cancelled. Lake Keowee does not currently have enough healthy players to field a team. On Wednesday, April 30th, the league will send two teams on the road. John Musser will lead the 60+ mixed Sluggers to Sunset Park in Greenville, SC, to face the Upstate 60+ team. Andy Hinds will travel with the 70+ mixed Sluggers to the Maples Sports Complex in Marion, NC, to face the High Country (Boone) mixed 70+ team.

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>.