

Week of Monday, April 28, 2025

As mentioned last week, the Clayton 68+ League game scheduled at Jackson Park on Monday, April 28th, between the Henderson County Sluggers and Lake Keowee had to be canceled as the Eagles did not have enough healthy players available to field a team. No makeup date has been announced yet.

Plenty of softball was played during the week as both the Henderson County 60+ mixed Sluggers and the Henderson County 70+ mixed Sluggers both went on the road on Wednesday, April 30th. The Henderson County 60+ mixed Sluggers, sponsored by Orchard Lake Campground and coached by John Musser, traveled to Sunset Park in Greenville, SC, to battle the Upstate SC Mojos. With Dwight Moore toeing the mound, the Henderson County mixed Sluggers rolled to a lopsided 20-2 win. The offensive onslaught was led by Tom Welbourn (4-4 with three doubles), Frank Johnson (3-3 with a double), Dwight Moore (3-3), Kevin Doyle (3-3 with two home runs), and Gary Ayers (3-3). Chipping in to aid the cause were Steve Angell (2-3) and Kristy Musser (2-3 with a double). Game two also resulted in a victory for the Sluggers, although the final score of 35-19 is very deceiving. When the teams went to the seventh inning, Henderson County held a slim one-run lead at 19-18. The Mojos made three consecutive errors to start the inning, and after several hits by the Sluggers, sixteen runs had crossed the plate. The Sluggers had still not made their final out when the Mojos coach ran up the white flag of surrender. The Mojos did score a run in the bottom of the seventh to make the final score 35-19, another romp by the Sluggers. John Musser pitched the first six innings to garner the win on the mound. Steve Angell came on in relief in the last inning. Tom Welbourn (5-5 with three doubles and a home run), Frank Johnson (5-5 with two doubles), and Dwight Moore (5-5 with two doubles and a triple) continued their torrid hitting to finish off perfect days at the plate. Steve Angell was also perfect at the plate in game two (5-5 with a double). Kevin Doyle was nearly perfect (4-5 with a home run). With the pair of wins, the mixed 60+ Sluggers ran their record to 4-0 on the year.

Also on Wednesday, the mixed 70+ Sluggers made the trek to the Maples Sports Complex in Marion, NC to face the High Country squad from Boone. Both teams were missing players who were in a tournament in Huntersville, NC, but the strength of our league is the quality of depth on the rosters of the various teams, and it proved to be the difference in this series. The mixed 70+ team was sponsored by **Park Ford** and coached by Andy Hinds. With Don Chambers on the mound, the mixed 70+ Sluggers picked up a comfortable 26-12 victory over High Country in the first game. Jim Ready and Mark Hammer turned in superlative performances with their outfield play. In game two with David Keith pitching, the Sluggers routed High Country by a 23-7 margin. No statistics are available, but Andy reported that there was good hitting throughout the lineup, as the forty-nine runs scored would attest. With the pair of wins, the mixed 70+ team stands at 3-1 on the season.

Although not part of our league play, the HCSSA did have several players participating in the 2025 Eastern Spring Nationals ISSA Senior Softball Tournament in Huntersville, NC on April 30th-May 2nd. Sonny Johnston played first base on the Northern Virginia Force 75+ Major team that captured the championship, defeating the Code Electric/Le Bleu 75+ Major squad. Gene Reiser (left field), Bill Close (left center), Jim Zitney (shortstop), and Gary Warren (second base) represented our

league on the Upper East Tennessee 75+ AAA team that finished second to CC Medical Services 75+ AAA squad from Long Island, NY. Mike Warner was the shortstop for the Reality Check 70+ AAA team from Charlotte that finished second to the Tidewater 70+ AAA team.

Next week, the league has two teams scheduled to play, provided Mother Nature is cooperative. On Monday, May 5th, the Henderson County 68+ team will journey to the Parker Meadows Complex in Franklin to face the North Georgia Patriots in Clayton League action. On Wednesday, May 7th, the mixed 60+ Sluggers will travel to the Maples Sports Complex in Marion to battle the High Country 60+ 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 typically 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>.