

Week of Monday, May 26

The Henderson County Senior Softball Association had two teams scheduled to play this past week, but the weatherman once again played the part of the bad guy, and the game between the Henderson County 70 + Sluggers and the High Country team from Boone had to be cancelled. However, the Henderson County 60+ Sluggers, coached by John Musser and sponsored this week by **WNC Family Medical Center**, did get their game in. John Musser, in addition to being the coach, is also a master wordsmith and part-time comedian. Therefore, I am offering his report of the game, totally in his words, from this point on.

I guess it just goes to show that Mother Nature loves some teams more than others. Today is evidence. Mother Nature donned her grace upon the Mixed 60's while frowning upon the mixed 70's this week. Even Mother Nature has her favorites. Who knew? Upstate SC made the trek north to challenge the Sluggers with a doubleheader. Our series record against them is now 6-0 after sweeping the three series thus far. The mixed 60's bats were more hot than cold during the first game, scoring no more than one run in two of their seven innings while scoring five runs in four innings. The seventh inning was pretty much a flip-flop for the Sluggers. The Sluggers scored only one run in the inning, but it was with no outs and gave them a 10-run lead. The two teams had agreed beforehand that they would flip-flop if one team gained that large a lead in order to save time and beat the incoming rain. The Upstate Mojos were able to plate one run, making the final score 22-13. Notable performances go to Kevin Doyle (4-4 with a home run and two doubles), John Musser (4-4 with two doubles), Kirk Hall (4-4 with a double), and Chris Culberson (4-4 with a double). The near perfect awards are shared by Tom Wellbourn (3-4 with two triples), Steve Strusowski (3-4 with two doubles), Peter Fama (2-3 with a double), Bill Kane (2-3), Mike Elmaleh (1-2 with a walk), and Dwight Moore (1-2 with two walks). The Sluggers put up an impressive 0.805 batting average while holding the Mojos to a 0.440 average. Dwight Moore was the winning pitcher.

Game two was a near carbon copy of the first game in many ways. The Sluggers' batting average dropped to 0.659. The Mojos' average fell to 0.436, which should have been lower. The Sluggers apparently decided to be generous and allowed many base runners on egregious errors by both the infield and outfield. There were two players who reached perfection in game two: Steve Strusowski (4-4 with an inside-the-park homer) and Chris Culberson (3-3 to give him a 7-7 day). Much of the rest of the roster shares the "almost" award: John Mix (1-2 with two walks), Bill Kane (3-4 with a double), John Musser (3-4 with a double), Scott Webster (2-3 with a double, triple, and a walk), Kevin Doyle (3-4 with a double and inside the park homer), Tom Wellbourn (3-4) and Dwight Moore (2-3 with a double). The starting and winning pitcher for game two was John Musser. After many controversial calls by the home plate umpire, Musser was relieved by Dwight Moore in the seventh inning. Game two ended with a 22-11 Sluggers victory. For a second testimony of

Mother Nature's favoritism, the mixed 60's rain began to fall immediately after the game concluded. My, oh my, how she loves to parade her favorite child.

Next week's schedule has the 68+ Sluggers hoping to play their first game in four weeks as they welcome the Franklin Old Bones to Jackson Park on Monday, June 2nd. On Wednesday, June 4th, the league will send two teams on the road. Mother Nature's favorite, the 60+ mixed Sluggers, will travel to Simpson Field in Burke County to face Ashe County, while Mother Nature's stepchild, the mixed 70+ Sluggers, will go to the Maples Sports Complex in Marion to battle High Country.

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>.