

Week of Monday, June 9, 2025

What looked like a full week of softball for the Henderson County Senior Softball Association quickly became an abbreviated schedule. The 60+ mixed Sluggers had to cancel their participation in the Hickory Games on Monday, June 9th, when they could not muster enough healthy, available players to field a team. The 60+ mixed Sluggers game on Tuesday, June 10th, versus Tri-Cities at Jackson Park had to be scrubbed due to similar reasons, as Tri-Cities could not field a team. Likewise, the 70+ mixed Sluggers had their game cancelled versus Tri-Cities 70+ at Jackson Park on Wednesday, June 11th.

However, the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers coached by Stan Steinberg and sponsored this week by **Carolina Blinds** did get their game in on Monday, June 9th when they welcomed Upstate SC to Jackson Park for Clayton League action. In game one, Henderson County scored five runs in the top of the first inning and never trailed as they recorded a team batting average of 0.737. Don Ward went all the way on the mound to pick up the victory by a score of 19-7. The Sluggers had three batters achieve perfection in the game: Scott Searle (4-4 with a double), Joe Fishleigh (4-4), and Don Ward (3-3 with a sacrifice fly). The Sluggers had seven batters contribute offensively with near perfect performances: Bob Drew (3-4 with a double), Gene Reiser (3-4 with two doubles), Jim Zitney (3-4 with two doubles), Gary Ayers (2-3), Randy Bowman (2-3), Tim Epley (2-3 with a double), and Stan Steinberg (2-3 with a triple). Game two proved to be much more competitive, and the teams went to the seventh inning tied at 12-12. Upstate was unable to score in the top of the frame, and the Sluggers picked up the walk-off win as Gary Ayers hit a seeing-eye single through the infield with the bases loaded. Don Ward again was the victor on the mound in the Sluggers' 13-12 win. The team batting average in game two fell to 0.594. Two batters were flawless in the game: Gene Reiser (3-3 with a double and a walk) and Randy Bowman (1-1 with two walks). Five other Sluggers were near perfect: Don Ward (3-4 with a double), Gary Ayers (3-4 with a triple), Jim Zitney (3-4 with a double), Tim Epley (1-2 with a sacrifice fly and a walk), and Stan Steinberg (1-2 with a sacrifice fly). With the pair of wins, the Sluggers ran their season record to 10-0 and continue to sit atop the 68+ Clayton League standings with a one-game lead over the 9-1 Rabun County Relics.

On Wednesday, June 11th, the mixed 60+ Sluggers were finally able to take the field as they traveled to Sunset Park in Mauldin, SC, to battle Upstate South Carolina. The Sluggers were sponsored by **Worsham Tax Service** for this game.

At press time, there were no statistics available to report, but the mixed 60+ Sluggers did pick up wins in each game with Dwight Moore on the mound. The season record for the mixed 60+ Sluggers stands at 11-1.

Next week, the league will have two teams scheduled for action. On Monday, June 16th, the Henderson County 68+ Sluggers will travel to Tiger, Georgia, to face the North Georgia

Patriots. On Wednesday, June 18th, the mixed 60+ Sluggers will go to Simpson Park in Morganton, NC, to battle Ashe County.

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>.